Gc
929.2
D236m
1597057

M. L.

Slave Trade
p. 455 seq

1 coloured
Illustration

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

C-13
15-

FORT EN LOYALTE

Robert Augustus Danvers.

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01220 0017

G. 19

[illegible] descent from [illegible]
[illegible] 345, [illegible] 38

p296 Danvers of Chelsea

MEMORIALS OF THE DANVERS FAMILY

Meisenbach

Yours very sincerely
Fk. Dawes Danvers

MEMORIALS

OF

THE DANVERS FAMILY

(OF DAUNTSEY AND CULWORTH):

THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS FROM
THE CONQUEST TILL THE TERMINATION
OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY;

WITH SOME

Account of the Alliances of the Family, and of the Places
where they were Seated.

BY

F. N. MACNAMARA, M.D.,

SURGEON-MAJOR (RETIRED) INDIAN ARMY.

LONDON:
HARDY & PAGE, 21, OLD BUILDINGS, LINCOLN'S INN.
1895.

[*All rights reserved.*]

1597057

To

SIR JULAND DANVERS, K.C.S.I.,

THESE MEMORIALS

OF AN ANCESTRY WHICH HE WORTHILY REPRESENTS

ARE

AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

B 15.00 - P.O. # 8370 - Goodspeed - 10-20-71

PEDIGREE HUNTING.

'We doubt whether there is a single man of education in England who is not interested in his pedigree—that is, who does not desire to know what manner of men his forefathers really were. Of course, there are plenty of people who do not care in the least for a royal descent, or a Norman lineage, and for whom a distinguished ancestry has no attractions. If, however, a man says that he does not care to know where his great-grandfather lived, what he did, and what were that great-grandfather's politics and religious creed, it can merely mean that he is incapable of taking interest in one of the most interesting forms of human knowledge—the knowledge of the details of the past. Of course, the compiling of mere strings of names, however long, is utterly meaningless, and its worship well deserves the contempt that has been poured upon it. To a person possessed of any historical sense, however, no name, if properly supplemented with date and place, is without interest. To find that a direct ancestor lived at Naseby about the year 1645, and so must have witnessed the great battle between the forces of the King and Parliament, at once gives life and colour to any family record. It is a happy circumstance that those who wish to prepare pedigrees are bound to compile them from documents which contain names not merely as names, but in definite relation to some particular event or special circumstance. For instance, if an ancestor's name turns up on the Patent Roll, it is because he obtained, at some time or other, a grant from the King. When a name is found, an important fact in the life is found with it. Except the parish registers, there is, indeed, hardly a public record which does not attach some piece of information, great or small, to the names recorded in it. . . . To trace out the ramifications of a family line, is indeed an exciting and delightful task. No one who has ever felt it will forget the delight of finding the anxiously looked-for name in the Index Nominorum of some stately folio of the Records, the breathless turning over of the leaves to find the place, and the reward for days of hungry expectation that the passage, when discovered, affords. The charm of the chase is that the hunt is never up. To run down one game is only to start another. . . . Perhaps one of the most curious things about pedigree hunting, is the fact that it is tending to become more general as the political and social power conferred by birth is growing less. That this is so, has been the cause of much cheap satire in regard to the snobbish tendencies of democracy. We very much doubt, however, whether the present love for pedigrees has anything to do with that pride of birth which has been so conspicuous a feature in other ages. Rather, we believe that it is to be explained by the fact that the horizon of human interest has been widening everywhere, and that the love for the study of ancestry has developed with the general love for knowledge which is everywhere steadily growing. A man now sets out to discover who his ancestors really were, not to establish a claim to Norman blood. The old pedigree hunting was a sign of pride and pretension; the modern is simply dictated by the desire to know whatever can be known. The one advanced itself by the methods of immoral advocacy; the other proceeds by those of scientific research.'—*The Spectator*, April 21, 1888.

PREFACE.

Some six or seven years ago, my attention was drawn to the table of descent of the Danvers family, and having time at my disposal, and a liking for antiquarian research, I resolved on an attempt to prove or disprove its correctness. This table traced the ancestry of the family, through the Swithlands branch, to the time of the Conquest. Yet, at the outset of the inquiry, the only evidence which one could discover of the connection of the family with that of Swithlands, rested in some letters of the last Baronet of the Swithlands line to John Danvers of Hornsey, in which he spoke of the latter as 'his relative and friend.' One of the first-fruits of the search was the discovery that the evidence of the descent of John of Hornsey from the Swithlands family was quite illusory, and that the John Danvers of that branch, from whom descent was assumed, died childless. The descent of the family could not, in fact, be authenticated beyond John Danvers of Hornsey, who died in the year 1803. Several of his grandchildren were alive, and remembered him and his wife Elizabeth, whose maiden name they knew was Hardy. There was, however, nothing authentic on record to show whence John Danvers came, or to which branch of the Danvers family he belonged.

At the time when my search began, those very useful works, Mr. Walter Rye's 'Records and Record Hunting,' and Mr. Phillimore's 'How to Write the History of a Family,' had not been published, and, very ill-informed in such matters, it seemed to me my best plan would be to go to the Public Record Office, and there begin my search. I was courteously received in 'the long room,' and told that I had best commence by examining any post-mortem inquisitions of the family which were amongst the records. Accordingly I requisitioned one of them, but, alas! only to discover that I could make nothing of the queer-looking contracted legal Latin, written in an old-time hand. It was evident that I yet had much to learn before I could, with any hope of success, begin an inquiry amongst the ancient records. Then it occurred to me that a more promising field for research would be the old wills at Somerset House, and having obtained sanction to study in the literary department of the Probate Office, I began work there, and, with the ever-ready help of the superintendent of the room, Mr. Challoner Smith, found promise of making some progress in the inquiry.

It appeared from the letters of Sir John Danvers that the friend and relative, Mr. John Danvers, to whom they were addressed, had relations at Bath, and I found the will of a Daniel Danvers of that city, in which Mr. John Danvers of Hornsey was mentioned. This Daniel Danvers, as his will showed, came from Liverpool, and it seemed therefore advisable to search the Chester Probate Office for Danvers wills, and several of them were found there. With their help, it became possible to make clear the relationship of the Liverpool and Bath families, and their connection with a John and a Samuel Danvers of Battersea.

Now, in reading these and other Danvers wills, one was struck by the constant recurrence of the Christian names 'Daniel' and 'Samuel,' and these proved to be names which occurred only amongst the Danvers family of Culworth, Northampton; a strong presumption was therefore raised that the Danvers of Liverpool, Bath and Battersea belonged to the Culworth stock.

Baker, in his 'History of Northampton,' speaks of Daniel Danvers (died in 1623), the son of John Danvers, and brother to Samuel Danvers of Culworth, as of Horley, and therefore to Horley and Culworth I went, and, by the courtesy of the rectors of these villages, obtained access to the church registers, and there learned the names of many members of the family. Suffice it to say that, with the aid of these and other parish registers, the wills of the family, the Oxfordshire fines and

Lay Subsidy Rolls, the descent of John Danvers of Hornsey from his great-great-grandfather, Daniel Danvers of Horley and Culworth, became established.

Having thus bridged the first broad gap in the pedigree, the Heralds' Visitations and printed pedigrees, such as that of the Danvers family in Baker's 'History of Northampton,' carried back the descent to a certain Richard Danvers, who, about the year 1360, married the heiress of John de Brancestre of Colthorpe, Banbury. But one had learned to distrust printed pedigrees, and a needful step was to rivet the chain by means of authentic documents contemporary with each link. Then when, after much research, this had been accomplished, one had to face another great gap, for no table of descent, both accessible and reliable, carried the pedigree beyond Richard Danvers of Banbury. For want of a better, one took the descent as given in Collins' 'Baronetage,' a descent which derived Richard from a Berkshire family, and six months and more were wasted in making the discovery that Richard Danvers had, by the pedigree-constructor, been affiliated to a certain Robert Danvers, on no better grounds than that Robert, so far as dates went, might have been Richard's father.

For a long time no clue to the true descent could be discovered, but at last it appeared, and in this way. Richard Danvers and his grandson Sir Robert were both, in one or more pedigrees, described as of Ipswell, and in looking through an Oxfordshire list of knights' fees of the generation before that of Richard Danvers, I found in a much mutilated roll, in the centre of the parchment, where alone the record was legible, the name of John Danvers of Ipswell, and at once noted him as a missing link. His name occurred in a list of fiefs of the hundred of Thame, leading one to search the genealogy of that part of the county, and notably in the Rev. Dr. Lee's 'History and Antiquities of the Church of St. Mary, Thame.' This led to the study of the registers of the neighbouring abbeys of Thame and Eynsham, and in these were found sufficient evidence of the descent of Richard Danvers from a Danvers of Tetsworth in Thame Hundred, who flourished about the middle of the twelfth century. This evidence was corroborated by fines, inquisitions, charters, and other authentic records, which subsequent research produced. Further, one learnt that the Tetsworth family of Danvers, or 'de Anuers' as they were then called, took their descent from a Sir Ralph de Aluers or de Auvers, who, towards the end of the eleventh century, held lands of the honour of Wallingford, in Little Marlow and Dorney. The intermediate links were finally discovered, and were placed in what were believed to be the proper sequence, while Sir Ralph issued as the son of the Sir Roland de Alvers, to whom Dugdale ascribes the origin of the English family of Danvers.

All the foregoing conclusions had long been worked out, when through the courtesy of Norroy (now Clarencieux) King of Arms, G. E. A. Cokayne, Esq., I gained access to some of Vincent's collections in the library of the College of Arms. In one of these I was delighted to find a pedigree of the Danvers family, extending back from about the year 1620 to the time of the Conquest. This pedigree entirely supported my conclusions so far back as the first member of the Tetsworth family, and corrected the table of the sequence of earlier members of the line. And a circumstance which made the acquisition of this table the more satisfactory, was the evidence which it afforded that Vincent had derived the earlier part of the descent from documents quite other than those which I had made use of.

The Danvers pedigree thus worked out and corroborated runs as the connecting-chain through the following pages. Let it, however, be understood that the pedigree is that of the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire branches of the family, and of their ascertained descendants in the male line. The Danvers family of Leicestershire are only incidentally mentioned. I may, however, say that it seems probable that the Leicestershire family failed in the male line towards the middle of the fourteenth century, and that the recently extinct Danvers of Swithlands sprang from a younger branch of the Oxfordshire line.

My idea when the search was entered on was simply to establish the line of descent of the Danvers family and to calendar the evidences, but as it proceeded it became necessary to make full notes, often copies, of ancient records; and, moreover, for my own information and satisfaction, notes of the historical circumstances of the periods with which I was dealing were needful. Thus a mass of material accumulated, and it is this which composes the bulk, at one time altogether unimagined, of the following pages. One may hope that the history of a middle-class family, which has maintained a recorded descent from the period of the Conquest till the present time, may prove interesting to others besides its members.

An essentially middle-class family that of Danvers has remained. Yet many of the noble families of the present day have Danvers blood in their veins; but, though this is the case, and though the family has produced many stout-hearted knights and squires, a line of baronets, and several judges and Members of Parliament, only two of its members, Sir Henry Danvers, K.G., Earl of Danby, and, in recent times, Emily Viscountess Hambleden, have been ennobled, while two of the daughters of the family have married into the baronage. With these few exceptions the family have remained commoners. And it is noticeable that of the younger sons, only two or three have entered the Church; their predilection from early times has evidently been for trade.

Now, in the preface to his history of 'The Family of Brocas,' Professor Montagu Burrows, after narrating the discovery of 'The Contents of an Old Chest,' and the demand of antiquaries for the publication of the papers, proceeds: 'The question will certainly be asked, Why listen to the antiquaries? Why drag before the public the dullest of all dull things—a family history? Still more, why run the risk of being blamed for attaching too much importance to a family in which you have a special interest?' And if Professor Burrows had to face these considerations, with how much greater diffidence must I do so! For no antiquaries have demanded of me the publication of my material. I cannot claim that this history is of a quite unique kind, interwoven with many national events, or throwing light upon any special period of English history; and, above all, I lack the historical knowledge and the literary skill which enabled Professor Burrows to clothe his subject in attractive garb. No; for support in this humble undertaking, I must fall back upon that interest which, with the *Spectator*, I believe an educated man takes in his pedigree, and upon the desire to know what manner of men his forefathers were—an interest and desire which may appeal to the feelings of at least some of the very numerous descendants of the Danvers family. And beyond this, one may hope that here and there the following pages clear up or supplement some old time tale, and add to the stock of local history. I have, indeed, endeavoured to make this story something more than a mere family history. My readers must decide how far the attempt has succeeded. I know full well that these pages do not exhaust the story of the Danvers family—for simply to have used the whole of the material in my possession would have made the story, even from an author's own point of view, unconscionably long—much might have been added, and especially as regards the members of the Dauntsey branch of the family. It is, too, more than probable that much which the ancient records and family histories contain regarding the Danvers family has escaped me. I trust, however, that the publication of this work may be the means of bringing to light further material, which will supplement that which is now set forth.

Many of the following pages are solely occupied with genealogical records, which will not, it is to be feared, interest the general reader. Endeavour was made to relegate all such matter to the notes, but it was found this could not be done without repeating in the text portions of the notes, and the plan, therefore, has only very occasionally been adopted.

Should any of my readers be induced by my example to attempt to complete or establish the pedigree of a family, let me commend to him the following books: Mr. Walter Rye's 'Records and Record Searching'; Mr. Phillimore's 'How to Write the History of a Family'; Dr. Marshall's 'Genealogist's Guide'; Mr. Sims's 'Manual for the Genealogist,' and his 'Index to the Heralds' Visitations'; Mr. C. T. Martin's edition of Wright's 'Court-hand Restored,' and 'The Record Interpreter,' also by Mr. Martin. Also Mr. Anderson's 'Book of British Topography,' a work which will be found most valuable for reference.

Lastly, I have to record my thanks to those gentlemen whose seasonable and ready help has enabled me to carry out my scheme; and especially I have to thank Mr. Challoner Smith, who till lately presided over the literary department of the Probate Registry at Somerset House; Messrs. J. M. Thompson and E. Salisbury, of the Public Record Office; and Mr. F. B. Bickley, of the MS. department of the British Museum. I have, too, to thank Miss E. M. Walford for her efficient help in transcribing ancient records.

I venture to record my gratitude to the Marquis of Bath for the use of that very valuable MS., 'The Register of Thame Abbey'; to the Rev. the Dean and the Chapter of Christchurch, Oxford, for the use of the MS. 'Register of Eynsham Abbey'; to the Rev. the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, for the use of some valuable MSS.; and to G. E. Baker, Esq., Estates Bursar of Magdalen College, Oxford, for access to some of the valuable MSS. in the possession of that college. Nor can I omit to mention the kindness of the late good and great Dean of Lincoln, Dr. Butler. His faith in himself gave him faith in others, and gained me free access to the muniments of the cathedral. I have already had occasion to express my gratitude to Clarencieux King of Arms, for his kindness in giving me access to some of the MSS. in the possession of the Heralds' College.

To the Rev. Charles Hill, Rector of Culworth, the Rev. Charles Heaven, Rector of Horley, and to many other clergymen, I am greatly indebted for access to the registers of their churches, and for other help. Also it is a very pleasant duty to me to thank the Abbé J. Briant, Curé of Binneville, and late Vicar of Auvers, for much valuable information. Last, but not least, are my thanks due to my sister-in-law, Mrs. Thornton, *née* Danvers, for many kind suggestions, and for the use of her valuable notes.

F. N. MACNAMARA.

NETHERTON, GUILDFORD.
December, 1894.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1100—1200.

PAGE

Village of Tetsworth—Thame Abbey—Register of the Abbey—Roger Bishop of Salisbury, and his nephews, Alexander of Lincoln and Nigel of Ely—Alan, Earl of Richmond; his gift to Robert Danvers—The families of Le Poure, Danvers, Chevauchesul, Talemasche—The manor house of Tetsworth—William Danvers of Tetsworth and his family—Charters of the Danvers family to Thame Abbey. 1

CHAPTER II.

A.D. 1066—1200.

Ancestry of William Danvers of Tetsworth—Domesday Book—Battle Abbey Roll—'Recherches sur le Domesday'—De Auvers of Auvers, Cotentin—Village and church of Auvers—MS. genealogies of the Danvers family—Vincent's pedigree of Danvers—Members of the family in the 'Liber Niger' and 'Liber Rubeus'—Torold, the son of Geoffrey the Saxon. 27

CHAPTER III.

A.D. 1210—1350.

The name 'Danvers'—Robert Danvers of Tetsworth and Bourton—The charters of his family to Eynesham Abbey—William, son of Robert—Fiefs of the Bishops of Lincoln in the Hundreds of Thame and Banbury in the years 1225 and 1300—Robert Danvers, son of William—Charters of the family to Chaucombe Priory—Members of the family in the 'Rotuli Hundredorum'—Little Bourton and its church—Simon Danvers, son of Robert, of Bourton and Ipswell—John, son of Simon, and his wife Isabel de La Lee—Village, church, and manor house of Ipswell. 46

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1347—1450.

PAGE

John Danvers of Ipswell—The Black Death—Richard Danvers of Ipswell and Colthorpe—The Brancestre family—Banbury and its church and castle—Colthorpe House—John Danvers of Colthorpe, Ipswell, and Prestcote—John Danvers in the Parliaments of A.D. 1420, 1421, 1423—John Danvers and All Souls' College—His wives Alice Verney and Joan Bruley. 81

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1400—1504.

Sir Robert Danvers, Recorder of London and Justice of the Common Pleas—Parliamentary life—Foundation of All Souls' College, Oxford—Jack Cade's insurrection—Purchase by Sir Robert of manors of Sulgrave and Culworth—His wives and children—Richard Danvers of Prestcote—Parliamentary life—Comptroller of Customs—Purchase of manors of Culworth and Sulgrave from his brother's heirs — His wife Elizabeth Langston — The Langston family of Caversfield—Prestcote—Cropredy church and village—Richard Danvers, the younger, of Prestcote—His sisters' marriages—The Englefield and Dale families—John, brother of the elder Richard Danvers—Agnes, his sister—Her husbands : Baldington, Fraye, Wenlock, and Say—Agnes Say's portrait in Long Melford Church—The Clopton family. 102

CHAPTER VI.

A.D. 1420—1520.

Children of John Danvers and Joan Bruley—Sir Thomas Danvers of Waterstock—The Parliaments in which he sat—Associated with Bishop Waynflete in preparations for foundation of Magdalen College—Waterstock Church and manor house—Richard Croke—Dame Sybil, wife of Thomas Danvers—Her will—The Fowler family—Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse—His wife, Anne Pury—The Pury family—John Danvers of Waterstock and his children—Henry Danvers and his wife, Beatrice Verney—His sisters, Bona Pole and Elizabeth Poure. 155

CHAPTER VII.

ANCESTRY OF ALICE VERNEY AND JOAN BRULEY.

The Verneys of Byfield—Simon Verney of Byfield of A.D. 1230—Descent of William Verney from the de Langelees of Whychwood—The Verneys of Byfield and Warwickshire—Joan Bruley and her ancestry—Descent from the Fitz-Ellis's of Waterperry, the

PAGE

Russells of Bradenstoke, and the Quatermayns of Northweston—The Quatermayn family of Northweston and Rycote—Tombs of the family in Thame Church—Rycote Church—The Foliots of Waterstock—The Bruleys of Waterstock—Rectors and patrons of Waterstock Church. 194

CHAPTER VIII.

A.D. 1490—1721.

Danvers of Dauntsey—Dauntseys of Dauntsey—Family of l'Esterling or Stradling—Arundel descent of the Stradling family—Colshill family—Abduction of Edward Stradling by Richard Pole—Story of the murder of Edward Stradling and his mother—Richard Pole, was he the husband of Margaret Plantagenet?—Robert Fitzhamon's conquest of Glamorgan—Descent of the Stradling family—The village and church of Dauntsey—Monuments of the Danvers family—Legend of St. Fredismunde—Rectors of Dauntsey—Sir John Danvers and his wife, Dame Anne—Their wills—Marriages of their children—Thomas Danvers and his son, Silvester of Dauntsey—Sir John Danvers and his wife, Elizabeth Nevill—Their children—Marriages of their daughters—Sir Charles Danvers—His execution—Sir Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby—The story of the death of Henry Long—Sir John Danvers, the regicide—His children—John Danvers of Prestcote. 227

CHAPTER IX.

A.D. 1500—1544.

William Danvers of Culworth and his wife, Elizabeth Fiennes—The Culworth estate—Table of descent of Elizabeth Fiennes from the families of Fiennes and de Say—Relationship of the Fiennes family to that of William of Wykeham—Broughton castle and church—Culworth village, manor house, and church—Culworth Lay Subsidy Rolls—Children of William Danvers. . . . 306

CHAPTER X.

A.D. 1544—1604.

John Danvers of Culworth and his wife, Dorothy Raynesford—The Raynesfords of Great Tew—The village and church of Great Tew—The Wylcote brass—John Danvers' children—His will and post-mortem inquisition—Petition of the Danvers family for their privileges as founder's kin to William of Wykeham—Family of John Danvers—Samuel Danvers of Culworth and his son and heir, Samuel—Inquisitions of the two Samuels. 350

CHAPTER XI.

A.D. 1531—1614.

PAGE

Culworth parish accounts—Notes from the accounts of A.D. 1531-1608—And 'ordynanncys and rules to be kepte wythin the towne and feldes of Culworthe.' 367

CHAPTER XII.

A.D. 1554—1700.

Daniel Danvers and his wife, Susanna Pope—The Pope family—Wroxton village and church—Daniel Danvers at Culworth, March Baldon, Horley—His sale of his Culworth property and purchase of the manor of Horley—Death of his son and heir, John—Marriage of John's daughter to John Pollard—The Pollard family—William of London, third son of Daniel Danvers, and his family—Dr. Daniel Danvers of Northampton. 387

CHAPTER XIII.

A.D. 1616—1750.

Anthony Danvers of Horley and his family—Purchase of Horley manor—Horley Church and village—The Horley Church registers—Entries of names of the Danvers family—The Banbury divines—Banbury and the Civil War—Petition of Anthony Danvers for the admission of his children as founder's kin to Winchester College—John and Daniel Danvers at Winchester—Removal of the family to Holborn—Sale of Horley manor—Will of Mrs. Danvers—The Cleaveland family at Liverpool—John, son of Anthony Danvers, at Battersea—His family. 408

CHAPTER XIV.

A.D. 1680—1803.

Liverpool and Hornsey—Relationship of Danvers and Smith of Battersea—Mr. Smith establishes the sugar industry in Liverpool—Liverpool of the seventeenth century—The Danvers family in Liverpool—Wills of the Danvers family at Chester—The first, second, and third Daniel Danvers of Liverpool—Charles and Eunice Danvers, and their son John—The Danvers family leave Liverpool, Daniel Danvers for Bath, John Danvers for London—Daniel of Bath's connection with Sir John Danvers of Swithland, and that of Sir John with John Danvers of New Court—History of John Danvers of New Court and Hornsey—His marriage, and family—His descendants—The Fennell family. . . . 448

CHAPTER XV.

A.D. 1600—1794.

PAGE

The Culworth baronets—Sir John Danvers and his wife, Dorothy Pulteney—Sir Samuel and his wife, Anne Pope—Sir Samuel created a baronet—King Charles at Culworth—Battle of Cropredy—The parish accounts—Sir Pope and his wife, Anne Barker—The Marsham family—Daniel Danvers of Lower Worton—Sir John Danvers and his three wives, Meriel Leicester, Susan Nicolls, and Mary Hutchins—Sir Henry Danvers—Sir Michael Danvers—Miss Meriel Danvers—Alienation of the Culworth property, and dismantling of the manor house. . . . . . . , . 471

CHAPTER XVI.

A.D. 1120—1450.

Danvers of Buckinghamshire and of Berkshire—The descent of the manors of Marlow, Little Marlow, and Dorney—Villages of Little Marlow and Dorney—Priory of Little Marlow—Danvers of Little Marlow and Dorney in the Lincoln Institutions—Ralph, son of Roland of Little Marlow—His sons, Roland and Geoffrey—Ralph, son of Roland—His sons, Roland, and Ralph ancestor of the Berks family—Alienation of Dorney and Little Marlow—The Neyrunt family—The Berkshire line of Danvers—Danvers of Woghfeld—Sir Ralph of Woghfeld and Winterbourne—His son Robert—Robert's wife, Muriel Dunstanville—Their son, Robert, and grandson, Thomas the Sheriff—Thomas sells Woghfeld to Roger Mortimer—Edmund, son of Thomas, his rebellion and banishment—His brothers, Richard and William—The de Borhunt family—Descent of the Hunters manor of Weldon—Robert, son of Edmund—Robert's wife, Alice de la Beche—Edmund, son of Robert—William, son of Edmund, and his wife, Joan—Death of William's son, Robert, and extinction of the Berkshire family—Alienation of the estates. 484

CHAPTER XVII.

A.D. 1520—1800.

Danvers of Upton, Adderbury, Baynton, Tockenham—Davers of Worminghall and Rougham—George Danvers and his wife, Margaret Doyley—The Doyleys of Eweden and Greenlands—John, son of George Danvers, and his wife, Dorothy Verney—His dealings with the Puritans—George Danvers, son of John—Sale of Colthorpe House and property—John, son of George, his connection with the Washington family—Extinction of the Warwickshire line—Danvers of Adderbury—Richard Danvers, his purchase

PAGE

of Church property — His Inquisition P.M.—Extinction of the Adderbury line—Danvers of Baynton—Henry Danvers and his wife, Joan Lambe—Charles of Baynton and his many children—Ann marries John Danvers—Jane marries George Herbert—Elinor marries Sir John Osborn—Charles Danvers, Recorder of Devizes — Extinction of the Baynton line — The Tockenham Danvers—John, fourth son of Sir John of Dauntsey—His descendants—Sale of Tockenham property—Danvers of Lyneham and Corsham—Extinction of the male line of this branch in 1740—Descendants of John Danvers of Corsham and his wife, Dorothy Stafford. 516

ILLUSTRATIONS.

PAGE

Portrait of Frederick Dawes Danvers, Esq., late Clerk of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster Born December 17, 1795; died October 21, 1867 - - - - *Frontispiece*

The Old Church of Tetsworth in the Year 1793, from an engraving in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of that year, vol. lxiii., part ii., p. 719 - - - - - - - 3

A Danvers Knight in Armour and Surcoat, from Harleian MS. 4205, *temp.* Henry VI. The armour is that worn in the middle, or early half, of the fifteenth century - - - - 109

Thomas Lovett and Thomas Langston, feoffees of the manor of Prestcote, confirm the manor to Sir John Danvers and Anne his wife. Signed by the feoffees, dated December 2, 3 Henry VIII. Size of the original deed, 10½ inches by 5½ inches - - 123

A Bruley Knight in Armour and Surcoat, from Harleian MS. 4205. The artist, apparently uncertain as regards the drawing of the right arm, left it unfinished. In the MS. 'Burley' is given as the name of the knight, but the arms are clearly intended for those of Bruley - - - - - - - 219

Monument to Sir John and Dame Anne Danvers in Dauntsey Church. The white slab in front of the tomb is that over the grave of Joan of Dauntsey and her third husband, John Dewale 250

Monument to a Member of the Stradling, or Dauntsey, Family. Within the recess is the monumental brass of Dame Anne Danvers - - - - - - - - 254

Monumental Brass of Sir John and Dame Anne Danvers on their Tomb. The marginal inscription is omitted, but is given on p. 250 - - - - - - - - 270

Monumental Brass of Dame Anne Danvers, in a recess above the tomb on the south side of the altar. The word in the fifth line is clearly 'short,' abbreviated, not 'self,' as given in Aubrey's 'Wilts.' In the last line the word 'Christ' is plain in the original, though not so in our reproduction - - - 272

PAGE

Sir Henry Danvers, K.G., Earl of Danby, in his Garter Robes, from an engraving by Boydell after a portrait of the Earl by Van Dyck - - - - - - - - 292

Entail of the manors of Culworth Mandeville, Culworth Pynkney, and Sulgrave Pynkney, on William Danvers, dated January 1, 34 Henry VIII., signed by Sylvester Danvers of Dauntsey and William Danvers of Culworth. Size of the original deed, 25 inches by 12 inches - - - - - 307

Tombs in Broughton Church. That on the left is the tomb of Sir Thomas Wykeham and his wife, Dame Elizabeth. In a recess in the south wall of the aisle is the effigy of John de Broughton, in front of which is the monument of Edward Fiennes. In front of this again is the monument of one of the Fiennes family, probably that of Richard, father of Edward. From a pencil drawing by Mr. Skelton, now in possession of the Rev. C. F. Wyatt, M.A., Rector of Broughton - - - - - - 326

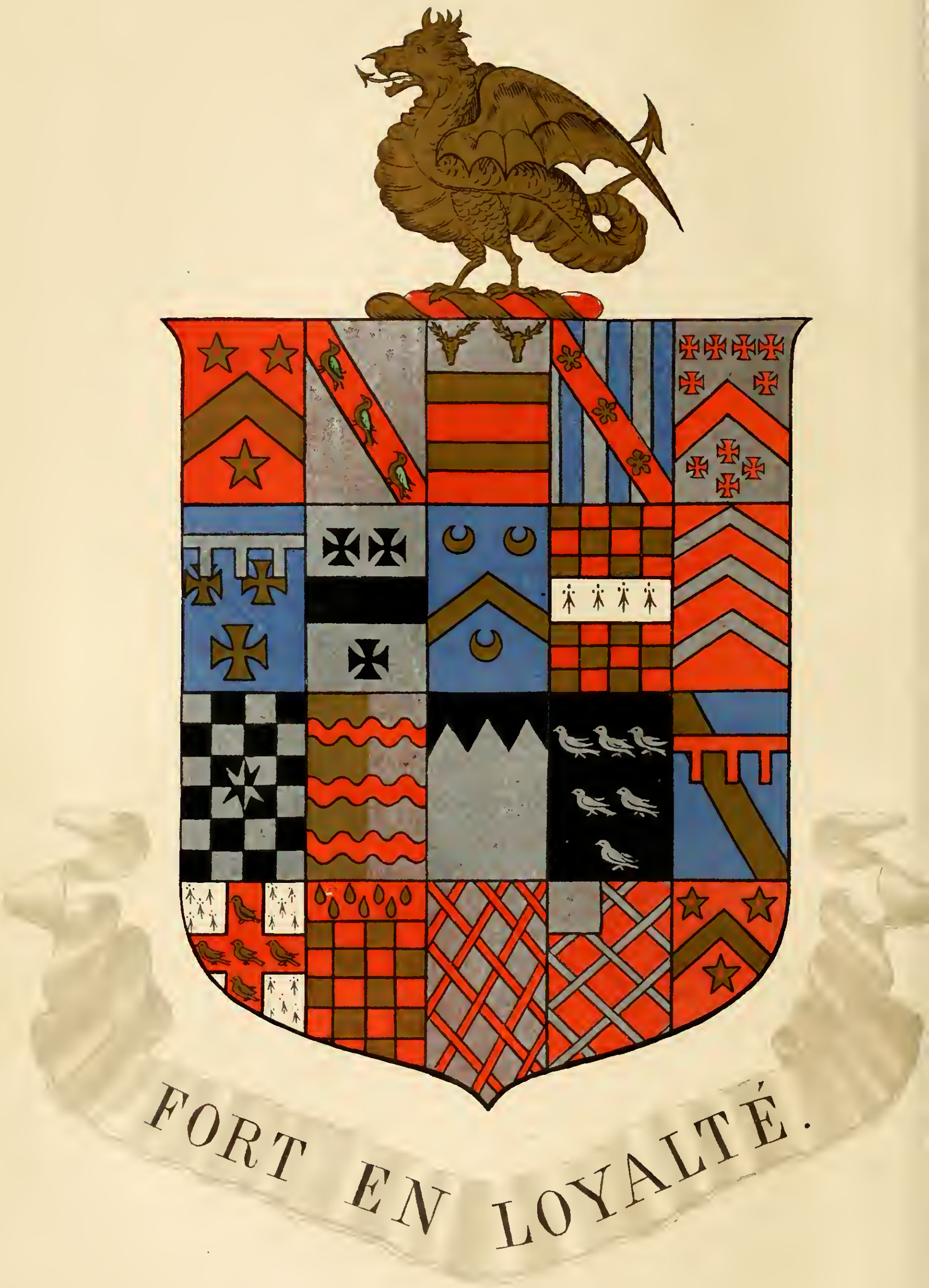
View of Culworth Manor House from the West, from a pencil sketch by Mr. Stanhope Thornton - - - - 344

View from the South-east of Culworth Manor House, from a pen-and-ink sketch by Mr. Stanhope Thornton. The upper part of the ancient entrance to the house appears above the low wall. In front of the wall is 'the King's stone,' on which it is said Charles I. sat while his troops defiled along the village street on the way to Cropredy, June 28, 1644 - - - - 387

TABLES OF DESCENT.

PAGE

Danvers and Chevauchesul of Tetsworth, and Talemasche of Stoke-Talmage - - - - - - 16-17
Danvers of Bucks, Berks, and Oxon - - - - 26-27
Danvers of Prestcote and Dauntsey - - - - 102-103
Langstons of Caversfield - - - - - 126
Danvers of Waterstock, Banbury, Upton (Warwick), and Adderbury - - - - - - - 154-155
Alliances of Danvers, Quatermayne, Englefield, and Fowler - - - - - - - 170-171
Verney of Byfield and Compton - - - - 197
De Braie of Waterperry, Fils-Elye of Waterperry and Corston, Russell of Bradenstoke - - - 205
The Bruley Family - - - - - - 224
Dauntsey and Stradling - - - - - 229
Descent of Ann Stradling - - - - - 235
Dauntsey of West Lavington - - - - - 294-295
Fiennes, De Saye, and Danvers - - - - 306-307
Danvers of Culworth - - - - - - 344-345
Pope of Wroxton - - - - - - 391
Danvers of Horley, Liverpool, and Hornsey - - 408-409
Danvers of Baynton and Tockenham - - - - 539


FORT EN LOYALTÉ.

ARMS OF DANVERS OF CULWORTH.

NOTES ON THE DANVERS SHIELD.

The coloured representation of the shield, with slight alterations as regards a few of the tinctures, is taken from that of Sir John Danvers of Culworth, as given in Harleian MS. 6066, p. 24. The Pigott quarterings have been omitted, as they were acquired by the family after the branch to which the present family belongs had diverged from the Culworth stem. Another representation of the shield, though differing in some respects from the above, will be found on page 5 of Additional MS. 4354 (British Museum). Our representation is supported by the history of the alliances of the family as given in the following pages, as well as by seals which have been preserved, and by shields extant upon monuments of the family.

Quartering No. 1. Danvers.—The mullets are sometimes represented with five, sometimes with six, points. The former is the more correct form, as witness a fine seal of William Danvers attached to Harleian Charter 49, c. 16, dated A.D. 1426.

No. 2. Brancestre.—See pp. 84 and 89.

No. 3.—Vincent, in his pedigree of the Danvers family, at the College of Arms, states that this is the shield of Verney. In support of his statement, see pp. 194-200 and 250, where we show that Verney took this shield on marriage with the heiress of de Langelee.

No. 4. Stradling.—These were the arms most commonly used by Stradling, but members of the family also used a chevron instead of the bend—see p. 248, and Burke's Armorial, 'Stradling.'

Then follow (Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) the quarterings of the heiresses whom the Stradlings married: (5) of Julia Hawey, see p. 246; then (6) of Eleanor, the daughter of Gilbert Strongbow, who married the heiress of Gernon or Garnon (7), see p. 247; next (8) of Wenllian Berkerolles, who brought to the family the quarterings of Turberville (9), and of Justyn (10), see pp. 246 and 247. Then follows the shield (11) which Isabel St. Barbe introduced by her marriage with Sir William Stradling (see p. 247).

The next shield (12) is that of Dauntsey of Dauntsey, regarding which a few words. We have represented the shield with three bars wavy, as it appears upon the monument of Joan Dauntsey in Dauntsey Church, upon the central shield of the Dauntsey or Stradling tomb on the south side of the chancel, and upon the impression of Dame Ann Danvers' shield, which is attached to Additional Charter 38881. But the family (Canon Jackson thinks the Winterbourne Dauntsey branch) also used three bars dancetty, while upon the monumental brasses of Dame Ann Danvers and her husband, Sir John, the bars are nebuly. Probably the oldest form of the bar was wavy, then the younger branch, by way of difference, took dancetty, and, possibly in later days, Dame Ann, merely as a matter of fashion, altered to nebuly the form of the bar. The West Lavington Dauntseys used the bars dancetty* till Sir John Dauntsey (1559-1632) altered the arms, first, to a lion and a dragon rampant combatant, and afterwards to gules a lion rampant arg. chasing a wyvern vert, which arms are entered in the Heralds' Visitation of Wilts, A.D. 1623.

Following the Dauntsey shield are the quarterings (Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19) brought to that family by marriages with heiresses. No. 13 is that of Bavent, for which match see p. 231. To this follows the shield of

---

* We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Edward Kite for this information.

Elizabeth Arundell, who married Edmund Stradling. Arundell brings in Carminow (15), Lovestoft, or Lestecot (16), and Colshill (17). Colshill finally adds to the shield the quarterings of Blanchminster and Huys, or Hiwis, see pp. 234-236. Add. MS. 4354 gives Lovestoft as the name of the bearer of No. 16, but Lovestoft appears to be one of the many variations of the spelling of Lestecot, and the quartering occupies in the shield a place appropriate to that of Lestecot (see p. 235). As regards the tinctures of the chief, with its charge, of Colshill (17), most authorities give argent guttée de sang; but in the arms of Lord Danby in Brinkworth Church (Aubrey's 'Wilts'), the chief is tinctured as we have represented it, and these appear to have been the tinctures upon the Coleshill shield impaled by Dauntsey in Dauntsey Church (p. 254). That shield is evidently a very ancient one, and the colours have almost entirely disappeared, but we found traces which seem to warrant those we represent, gules and or. Blanchminster and Hiwis are in their proper places following Colshill. Papworth, in his ordinary of arms, gives their shields as we represent them.

MEMORIALS OF THE DANVERS FAMILY

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1100—1200.

On the London and Oxford road, some twelve miles from the latter city, lies the little village of Tetsworth, a village which in the old coaching-days was one full of life and bustle. Old inhabitants say, though perhaps they somewhat exaggerate the glories of their village, that in those days three hundred horses, the pick and flower of the old coach-horse breed, stood ready for work in the stables of its many inns. And long, very long ago, at a period when the Oxford coach would have been a phenomenon scarcely less wonderful than a Great-Western express, Tetsworth was a busy and well-known place, for Oxford and London were royal cities, and kings and queens and other great people frequently journeyed through the village.

Tetsworth stands in a well-wooded country, amongst rich pasture-lands, on an eminence which stretches east and west across the Oxford road, rising to a height of sixty or seventy feet above the adjacent valleys. On its highest point, to the west of the road, about three hundred and thirty-three feet above sea-level, stands the village church. The road cuts the eminence diagonally from south-east to north-west, and on the northern slope, between the church and the road, lies the greater part of the village. On the opposite side of the road, at the entrance to the village, is the Swan Hotel, a fine old red-brick house, once the centre of the village life. Beyond is the village green, and again beyond is Tetsworth Common, on

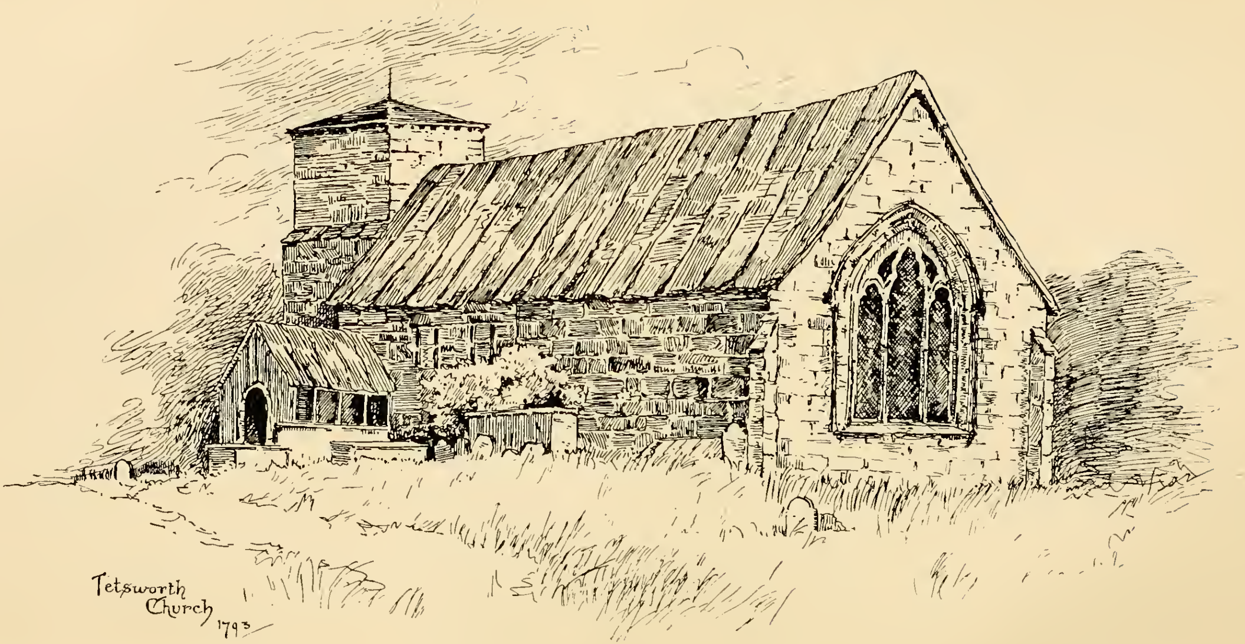
83

which from time immemorial the villagers have pastured their cattle.

From the summit of Tetsworth Rise one looks southward over a pleasant valley, which, broken by other eminences, intervenes between it and the Chiltern Hills, on the northern slope of which may be seen the windings of the London road. Away to the south-west runs the old Wallingford road, passing through the villages of Wheatfield and Stoke-Talmage, while looking northwards the town and church of Thame, three miles distant, are clearly seen, and to the north-east the woods of Thame Park mark the site of a once great Cistercian abbey.

The most direct road from Thame to Wallingford runs through the village, and was at one time a road of no little consequence, leading as it did from Thame, a favourite seat of the princely bishops of Lincoln, to Wallingford, the scene of so many stirring events in early English history. Thus Tetsworth barred the London and Wallingford roads, and not improbably in part owed thereto its origin; only in part, for another reason for the village is to be found in the good and plentiful water supply which the site affords. Close to the highroad, at the back of the ridge on which stands the church, there rises in a cup-like hollow a fine spring of water which is still known as 'the Napp,' whence paths diverge to the cottages of the villagers, to whom, as to their forefathers of many past generations, this never-failing spring is of priceless value.

A curious relic is the name, 'the Napp,' of Anglo-Saxon times, for 'Nappe' or 'Knaep' denotes a cup with sloping sides and a flat bottom. Such exactly is the Tetsworth 'Napp,' and for some thirteen or fourteen hundred years the place has borne its present designation. There, doubtless, many a Saxon and Norman wayfarer, on his journey from London to the West Country, has slaked his thirst; and there, too, many a band of armed men, scouting from Oxford or from Wallingford, may have refreshed themselves and their horses. 'Tetteswurd' was the name of the village in Norman times, and the name points to its origin. It reminds us of the days when Cerdic and Cymric with their followers



Tetsworth Church 1793

sailed up Southampton water, and spreading through what are now the counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Oxford, and Berkshire, established the kingdom of the West Saxons. Then it was that a certain 'Teot,' fresh, perhaps, from his Jutland home, journeyed northwards looking for a settlement, and finding in the Knaep and the rich pastures around a land of promise, built there his house, and prospered, and called the land after his own name, and so the place became, and so it remains, 'Tetteswurd'—the homestead of Teot.

The name does not appear in Domesday, and probably at the time Tetsworth was still but a wayside farm with its few huts for the landholder's serfs; but shortly after the Conquest it became a manor and a part of the great possessions of the See of Lincoln. In the year 1123 Alexander the Norman—called 'the builder,' and from his generous nature 'the bountiful'—was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln. He added much to the magnificence of his cathedral, founded monasteries, built castles at Banbury, Sleaford, and Newark, and bought many farms and manors. Very probably he was the builder of Tetsworth Church, which till within a few years since remained as a relic and monument of those early times. Unhappily the church was destroyed some forty years ago, and not a single stone of the ancient structure can now be identified. Almost, as one may say, by chance, sketches of the church and of its ancient and very interesting south door have been preserved, and may be found in volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine*.* There are also drawings of the church amongst the Rev. Dr. Lee's MSS., now in the Bodleian Library. In the year 1774 a Mr. Thorpe and his family chanced to stop in the village for refreshment, when one of the party made a sketch of the south door, which, writes Mr. Thorpe, 'had small panels and very large clumsy old hinges. Above the door is a semicircular arch of stone, under which are figures carved *in alto relievo*, the one representing a bishop *in pontificalibus* with a crosier in his left hand and his right hand lifted up as giving benediction. The other figure represents a priest under the tonsure, holding in his left hand the New Testament open, and his right hand pointing up to the Paschal Lamb and banner within a circle or nimbus. The sculpture of these figures is extremely rude; but what is most singular in the arch is the ornamental carved work of the inner moulding, somewhat similar to the west door of Iffley Church. I look upon this doorway at Tetsworth to be undoubtedly early Norman.'

---

* Vol. lx., Part i., p. 17, 1774.

A writer in the same magazine,* to whom also we are indebted for a sketch of the church, describes it as consisting of a single nave and chancel, separated by a plain round arch. In the south side of the chancel was a holy water basin, and, beneath it, a black coffin-fashioned stone, ornamented by quatrefoils. The font was a plain round one, with a long fluted shaft. Dr. Lee, in his 'History of St. Mary's, Thame,' says that the masonry of the north-west corner of the nave was undoubtedly of Anglo-Saxon character, the chancel arch of Norman work, the east window Early English. In the north wall of the sanctuary was a semicircular-headed window, very plain and severe. One cross-marked gravestone remained in the chancel, and there were several slabs from which the brasses had been torn. The holy-water basin Dr. Lee describes as very curious and of early Romanesque work, consisting of an arch of interlaced carved work of stone, with a projecting basin of granite; on either side a rude pillar of granite supporting the arch. In the chancel window remained the arms of Pypard, of Latchford, of Doyley, and of De Bardis. (Dr. Lee's 'Miscel. Thamesis,' Bodleian.)

Such was the Norman church of Tetsworth, the church of its early lords, the families of Chevauchesul and Danvers, and one might have hoped that respect for its historical and religious associations would have preserved this sacred relic of Norman England. But no; the carved figures, the very feature of the church which was its chief ornament, sufficed to condemn the whole to the narrow Puritanism of fifty years ago, and in 1841 the fabric was utterly demolished. The then Bishop of Oxford interceded in vain for the preservation of the south door; and, failing, sent an agent to bid for the sculptured figures which surmounted the arch. But even these he could not save, for the village iconoclasts outbid the agent, and, having secured the figures and the sacred symbol, broke them into pieces, and threw them into a pit which was being dug for the foundation of the new church.

---

* Vol. lxiii., Part ii., p. 719, 1793.

Looking to the accounts which we have of the ancient church of Tetsworth, it seems probable that it was built or enlarged in the latter part of the reign of Henry I. or in the early part of that of Stephen, and this supports the view that it may have been built by Bishop Alexander. He, at any rate, was closely connected with the early history of the village, both as its suzerain and as the builder of the neighbouring abbey of Thame. It is a curious reflection that in these later days we have become interested in the village of Tetsworth owing to the kindly feeling which moved the Bishop in the year 1138 to translate the Cistercian community from Otmoor, near Oxford, to his own park at Thame; for in their house were written and preserved the records which we have of the early history of the Danvers family.

Bishop Kennet tells us in his 'Parochial Antiquities' that Sir Robert Gait, lord of the manor of Hampton Gait, 'obtained leave from Gilbert Abbot of Waverlie to found a Cistercian abbey in the village of Ottendun, which he named, from an adjoining wood, Ottelee.' The site of the abbey was very low, and, says the Bishop, 'the religious always affected such places, out of the pretence of more solitary living; but I believe rather out of love to fish and fat lands. However, this site was fitter for an ark than for a monastery, and, therefore, was soon removed by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, to Thame, and the church there dedicated to St. Mary on the 21st June, 1138, of which the Bishop was now represented the founder, although it was only a translation of the other, and the Bishop's augmentation to it was only the park of Thame, in which the abbey was built.'

Of the abbey all that remains is a part of the comparatively modern abbot's lodging—which forms a wing of the present mansion*—and some remains, more ancient, of a chapel for visitors and wayfarers, which once stood outside the abbey, and now form part of St. Mary's Chapel, standing a little to the north of the mansion. In this abbey for some four and a half centuries lived and died successive generations of Cistercian monks—good neighbours to the villagers of Tetsworth, considerate landlords to such of them as were tenants of the abbey lands, instructors of their children, helpful to them in sickness, ready always to listen to the voice of the friendless and oppressed, checking by their presence or by their prayers, or, maybe, by their maledictions, the miseries which were the outcome of the cruelty and lawlessness of the age. For at the time of which we are writing (A.D. 1138) Henry, the great and vigorous son of the Conqueror, had passed away, 'a man of whom all men stood in awe, no man in his time dared harm another, for man and for beast he made peace, and to all he gave secure living.' So witnesses the Saxon chronicle; but in Henry's place reigned Stephen, weak in title as in character, and as unable to control the feudal baronage as he was unable or unfit to conciliate the Church. In his time the once prosperous and joyous land of the Anglo-Saxons filled up its cup of misery, groaning under the exactions and cruelties of its Norman lords.

---

* The seat of Wykeham Musgrave, Esquire.

But to return to the Abbey of Thame. Let us imagine ourselves about the year 1250, or a few years earlier, in the scriptorium of the abbey. At a rude desk sits a monk, and before him is a parchment volume, six or seven inches in breadth and ten or eleven in height, containing some ninety leaves. By his side is an iron-bound oaken chest, from which he takes another volume, similar to that on which he is about to work, and a number of slips of parchment. Of these some are small—two or three inches in breadth and five or six inches in length—while others may be such as we should call folio size. All have one or more seals attached by tags of parchment. They are the charters, or deeds of gift, which since its foundation, a hundred years and more ago, have been granted to the abbey; and these the monk is about to copy into the volume which lies before him. He is engaged in compiling a new register, or chartulary, of the abbey's muniments, which will include, besides the charters, final concords made in the courts at Westminster and elsewhere, post-mortem inquisitions of abbots, confirmations of the charters by Popes and Kings and Bishops, lists of tenants and particulars of their tenures. The volume which he has beside him is an older register—one made in days gone by—which is to assist him in his work.

The Norman abbey in which our monk and his companion worked—for two of them were engaged upon the earliest part of the register—has been utterly destroyed; of church and cloister, chapter-house, refectory, and the rest, not one stone of that period remains upon another; of the original deeds which the chest contained probably all are lost, perhaps thrown aside as worthless when, at the dissolution, the will of the King distributed the abbey lands to new owners—men who cared nothing for the memories of those who in years gone by granted their lands to pious uses. But the register itself, for the most part the work of those two monks, has been preserved.* After they had completed their work,

---

* I am indebted to the liberality of the Marquis of Bath for free access to the register of Thame Abbey, which he most kindly deposited for my use in the manuscript department of the British Museum.

The register is a volume containing now eighty-seven folios. The greater part of the manuscript is in two contemporary handwritings of the middle of the thirteenth century, or perhaps a few years earlier. The earliest charter which the volume contains—the first of the series—is that of Robert Gait giving his land in Ottendun (Oddington)—a fourth part of the manor—with its appurtenances, to the abbey, which, as an introductory paragraph states, he had obtained leave to found from the Abbot of Waverley, the mother-house in England of the Cistercian Order. The charter is witnessed by Adelelm, treasurer of the King, William, Archdeacon of Northampton, Henry, Archdeacon of Huntingdon (the historian), Magister Osbert of Hache, Robert de Oilli, Constable of the King, Wankelm Wadard, Roger de Aumari, Ralph de Salchei.

The second charter is that of Edith Forn, wife of Robert de Oilli. The third is the confirmation of his wife's grant by Robert de Oilli. The fourth is that of Henry de Oilli, Constable of the King, son of Robert de Oilli.

Robert de Oilli was the son of Nigel, the brother of the Robert de Oilli, the favourite baron of the Conqueror, who married the daughter of Wygod of Wallingford.

The above-mentioned charters are amongst these 'de Otteleya,' which include also the charters of the Pauper, or le Poure, family, 'of Ottendun;' *e.g.*, those of Genteschivre Pauper, son of William, and of Hugo, son of Genteschivre. To the charters of Otteley, follow those of Mortune, then those of Sidenham, Horsendun, Tetteswrd, Stoke-Talmage, and other places, and then various deeds relating to the abbey lands. At p. 62 is a table of the tithes of Chalgrove of the 22 Edward III., and this is one of the latest, if not the latest, of the deeds. At p. 74 is a deed of copying into the volume all the abbey deeds then extant, the register remained in the scriptorium. From time to time additions were made to the record, but the pages of the volume, as it lies before us, bear evidence to the truth of what has been written regarding this and other such chronicles: 'Unfortunately, as it is with the journals or diaries of men and women of the nineteenth century, so it was with the journals and diaries of the monks of the thirteenth, they evidently were kept by fits and starts; and before the fourteenth century was half out the practice of keeping up these diaries in all but the larger monasteries had come to an end.'*

Now let us note that amongst the names of the individuals which we most frequently find in the older part of the register, either as donors of lands or witnesses to charters, are those of members of the families of le Gait and le Poure of Ottendun (Oddington), of Chevauchesul and Danvers of Tetsworth, and of Talemasche of Stoke-Talmage. By marriage or by descent these families were allied, and the alliance is one which we can best explain by a reference to the history of two men who, at the time of the foundation of Thame Abbey, were amongst the most powerful of the great men of the kingdom. The

---

gift of Symon Danuers of Burton of houses and lands to Geoffrey de Stokes, and on the last page, in a handwriting of the same period, is a list of the scutages due from the two fiefs of Danvers and Thalemasche in Tettesworth and in Ippewell. Symon Danuers is the chief holder in the Danvers fief both in Tettesworth and in Ippewell. Other members of the family holding in the same fief are Richard, Roger, and Agnes daughter of Anne.

Amongst the tenants of the Thalemasche fief no one of that name is mentioned. Symon Danuers is the largest tenant. The heirs of Richard Danuers and Roger Danuers are also among the tenants.

Copies of the register, or, rather, abstracts from it, are Cotton MS. Julius, c. vii., pp. 287-304, and Harleian MS. No. 5,804. The Rev. Dr. Lee has also an epitomized copy of the register, and an epitome of it may be found in Harleian MS. 6,950 (Dr. Hutton's Collections). The Cottonian copy was made by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, in the year 1611. It is not by any means a complete copy; it epitomizes the charters, omits the names of many witnesses, and does not include several deeds which are present in the original, but it adds tables of descent of donors to the abbey which are absent in the original.

* Dr. Jessop's 'Coming of the Friars,' London, 1889, p. 131.

contemporary chronicler, William of Malmesbury, recording the transactions of the period, writes: 'Erant duo in Anglia Episcopi potentissimi et generossissimi, Rogerus Salesberiensis, et nepos ejus, ex fratre, Alexander Lincolniensis.' Regarding these two Bishops, and a third, also a nephew of Roger's, Nigel, Bishop of Ely, we find frequent notices in the histories of William of Malmesbury and his contemporary chronicler, Henry of Huntingdon—the latter, indeed, dedicated his history to Alexander, and he was the Bishop's companion in one, if not both, of his journeys to Rome. The life of Roger, the uncle, was a strange and eventful one. He began his career as a parish priest in the neighbourhood of Caen, and the story runs that Prince Henry, with some of his companions, accidentally entered the church in which Roger was saying Mass,* and was so well pleased with the rapidity with which the service was despatched, that he jestingly said to Roger, 'Sequere me'—follow me—and, as the chronicler adds, 'non secus ille adhæsit quam Petrus olim Regi cælesti idem dicenti.' Roger obeyed the prince, and not only followed, but diligently served him, and himself, to such good purpose, that he became Chancellor, Bishop of Salisbury, and Chief Justiciar, and had great influence in disposing of the Crown of England. In the year 1103, the King, having quarrelled with his chancellor, William Giffard, on the subject of the investitures, regarding which Giffard sided with Archbishop Anselm, dismissed him, and appointed in his place Roger, now Bishop of Salisbury, who had remained about the Court, and had proved himself an able and dexterous man. Subsequently he was promoted to the high office of Chief Justiciar, an office which he held till the year 1133, and in virtue of which he governed England during the King's long and frequent visits to Normandy.

Roger it was who was mainly instrumental in obtaining from the English and Norman barons a recognition of Maude as successor to her father's crown. But no sooner was the King dead, than, heedless of the debt of gratitude which he owed to him, and of the vows of fealty which he had taken to his daughter, he upheld Stephen in his usurpation, and was rewarded by the new king with the offices of Chancellor and Lord Treasurer.

---

* Cf. Campbell's 'Lives of the Chancellors,' vol. i., p. 53, and the chroniclers above mentioned.

Shortly after Stephen's accession to the throne in the year 1135, Roger resigned the chancellorship, inducing the King to appoint to the office his nephew, Alexander, who some years previously (1123) had been consecrated Bishop of Lincoln. The other nephew to whom we have referred, Nigel, was in the year 1133 consecrated Bishop of Ely. But before the year 1139 Alexander had resigned the chancellorship, and in his place Roger, son of the Bishop of Salisbury, was preferred to the office.

But though the King had made use of Roger, it is probable that he never really loved him, and it is certain that the time came when he coveted the enormous wealth which the Bishop had amassed, and the strong castles which he had built at Salisbury, Sherborne, Devizes and Malmesbury; and with them the castles at Banbury, Sleaford and Newark, which had been raised by Roger's nephew, Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. An opportunity for the realization of his wishes presented itself in the year 1139, when Stephen held a great council at Oxford, to which the three Bishops were summoned, and to which Roger came unwillingly and with forebodings of evil to himself and his kindred. At Oxford, as William of Malmesbury states, owing to ancient enmity between Bishop Alexander and Alan, Earl of Brittany and Richmond, a fight arose between their servants, in which the Earl's servants were defeated, and his nephew slain. The King ordered the Bishops to make satisfaction, and imprisoned the Bishop of Salisbury, his son Roger,* and his nephew Alexander. Nigel, however, managed to escape, and fled to his uncle's impregnable castle at Devizes. Thither the King carried the unfortunate Bishop of Salisbury, and with him his much-loved son, and partly by starving the father, and partly by preparations made before the castle to hang the son—'res infamia et notabilis et ab omni humanâ consuetudine remota,' says Roger of Hoveden—he compelled Nigel to give up the castle, and with it his uncle's treasures. By somewhat similar means the King possessed himself of Alexander's strongholds, but though he thus far prospered in his attack upon the Bishops, his success was dearly bought, for by his conduct he forfeited the goodwill of the Church, and, as the first-fruits of this change, Matilda the Empress arrived in England to assert her rights, and amongst her supporters were Robert de Oilli of Oxford, and Brian Fitz-Count of Wallingford.

---

* Freeman ('History of the Norman Conquest,' vol. v., p. 287) says that Roger's mother, Matilda of Ramsbury, may very well have been his father's wife.

But Roger, Bishop of Salisbury—his castles surrendered, his treasures pillaged—did not live to witness the misfortunes of the King, for he died that very year, and as he was breathing his last, the residue of his treasures, which he had placed upon the altar for the completion of his church, was carried off, and Roger, the wealthy Bishop and Chancellor, regarding whom Stephen had often repeated, 'By the birth of God, I would give him half England, if he asked for it. Till the time be ripe, he shall tire of asking before I tire of giving,' was now indeed Roger Pauper. His son, Roger le Poure, was for a time Chancellor of England, but he possessed neither the wealth nor the ability of his father, and appears to have died in poverty, if not in exile. However, to him and to his sister Maude, the Abbot and Convent of Westminster, perhaps mindful of favours received from their father, gave the manor of Oddington, which in the reign of Stephen was in part held by Sir Robert le Gait,* who had married Maude le Poure, and this is the history of the connection of the le Gaits and the le Poures of Ottendun, who were, moreover, cousins to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, and, as we shall see, were, through his family, connected with the Danvers family, and through them with those of Chevauchesul and Talemasche.

Alexander—Alexander of Blois, as the chroniclers call him—was, so William of Malmesbury tells us, the son of a brother of Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, but though he may have been born, and may have passed his early years at Blois, he was educated in the house of his uncle Roger, who brought him up sumptuously—'nutritus igitur in summis deliciis a Rogero avunculo suo,' writes Henry of Huntingdon—and with extravagant habits, which seem to have clung to Alexander and to have kept him all his life in difficulties which the princely revenues of his see and the contributions of his friends were never able to remove. He was a great builder, building, as we have seen, three castles, one of which, that of Newark on Trent, a contemporary chronicler designates 'fortissimum et florentissimum,' and, indeed, its ruins evidence the truth of his description—still the magnificent river-face of the castle extends along the bank of the Trent, while the very perfect remains of the great gateway tower testify to the former strength of the Bishop's stronghold. Reduced it was, not however by force of arms, but by the starvation of its owner by the King his captor, and beneath the Norman arch which still remains, the King in triumph, with the Bishop in his humiliation, entered the castle on its surrender. But the Bishop was a builder not only of castles, but of churches also. Thus, amongst others, he built the grand old church of Banbury; he founded, moreover, four monasteries, and when his cathedral of Lincoln was, in the year 1141, disfigured by fire, he so restored it that it appeared more beautiful than when it was first built, and was surpassed by none in England. To him, writes Canon Venables, we may probably ascribe 'the three western doorways, the intersecting arcade above the two side recesses of the west front, and the three lower stories of the western towers with their elaborately ornamented gables facing north and south.'

---

* Dunkin's 'Oxfordshire,' vol. ii., p. 215. Bishop Kennet's 'Parochial Antiquities,' vol. i., p. 132.

Magnificent in his buildings, Alexander was magnificent also in his habits; and hence the title given to him by the Court of Rome—which he twice visited—'Alexander the Magnificent,' while by his people and by his clergy he was well beloved and revered. 'Flos et cacumen Regni et Regis' he is called by Henry of Huntingdon, who ends his laudatory verses on the Bishop with the lines:

'Lincolniæ gens magna prius, nunc maxima, semper
Talis, et iste diu sit nobis tutor honoris.'

The Bishop seems to have recovered the King's favour, and with it his castles, and died in 1147 of a fever, which he caught on a journey made to visit his friend, Pope

Eugenius IX., at Auxerre. He was buried in Lincoln Cathedral.

One of Bishop Alexander's immediate successors built the lovely Galilee porch of Lincoln Cathedral, which includes the chamber wherein are now preserved the muniments of the Dean and Chapter. Amongst these muniments, one of the most precious, if, indeed, it may not be called the most precious, is the 'Registrum Antiquissimum,' a bound parchment volume containing two hundred and fifty folios. It is the ancient register or chartulary of the cathedral, and was probably compiled at the end of King John's reign, during the bishopric of Hugh de Wells. Its contents are copies of the royal charters—the originals of many of which have also been preserved—episcopal grants, and grants to the cathedral from many donors, many of them men of great renown, documents relating to the manors and revenues of the cathedral, Papal Bulls, and a form for conducting the election of a bishop.

No. 199 amongst the charters is one of Alan, Count of Brittany and Richmond, to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. This Alan* was one of the band of nobles, tyrannical and cruel, which gathered about Stephen, and to whom the miseries of the people of the land were mainly due. Preeminent in evil was Alan, 'execrable and polluted with every wickedness, thinking it a disgrace that anyone could compare with him in cruelty.' In addition to his earldoms of Brittany and Richmond, he obtained from Stephen that of Cornwall. In the battle of Lincoln (A.D. 1141) he fought, though feebly, on the King's side, and as a result of the victory of the friends of the Empress suffered imprisonment, and lost his treasures and his earldom of Cornwall. Probably it was while in a penitent mood, owing to his losses, that he gave to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, his ancient foe, a charter, which runs as follows: 'Alan. Com. Brittan. et Richemont. omnibus hominibus et amicis suis clicis et laicis. Salt. sciatis me dedisse et concississe Alexand. epo. Linc. et heredibus suis quibus eam dare voluerit Knivetunam cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in feudum et hereditatem scilicet tenendam de me et de heredibus meis per servicium unius militis et nominatim Robt. de Aluers filius neptis ejusdem Alex. epi. sit heres ei, nisi ipse alicui ali^{m} heredum suorum eam in vita sua et hereditate concesserit.' The names of the witnesses to the charter give no help towards determining its date, but we may reasonably place it between the years 1140 and 1147, the year of Alexander's death. Alan became Earl of Richmond in the year 1137, but it is unlikely that he made any gift to the Bishop prior to the year 1139, for William of Malmesbury, a personal friend of the latter, tells us that at that time the Bishop and the Earl were ancient enemies. It is more probable that when Alexander recovered the favour of the King, and with it his lordships and castles, the ancient feud was healed, and that as a peace-offering the Bishop received for his great-nephew, Robert Danvers (De Aluers), the gift of the manor of Kniveton. Moreover, we may notice that the Earl is not in the charter designated Earl of Cornwall, an earldom which he lost in the year 1141.

---

* He was son to Stephen, who was brother to Alan, the builder of Richmond Castle.

Whether Robert Danvers ever obtained possession of the Earl's gift we do not know, nor have we any evidence of the presence of any members of his family in Kniveton (Yorkshire). There can, however, be little doubt that this Robert Danvers is the individual who, about the year 1145, was a witness to a charter given by Robert Chevauchesul to Thame Abbey, a charter which was subsequently confirmed by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. He was, as we shall find, the father of the William Danvers who married Emma, sister to Robert Chevauchesul, and to Matilda Talemasche. Robert's grandfather was Sir Ralph Danvers (De Aluers), of Little Marlow; and if we have rightly identified Robert Danvers, of Count Alan's charter, it was this Ralph who married the sister of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. Thus, by bringing Roger of Salisbury and Alexander of Lincoln into our history, we explain the connection which the register of Thame Abbey evidences was very close between the families of le Gait and le Poure, Danvers, Chevauchesul, and Talemasche.

From charters which are amongst those included in the register of Thame Abbey, we learn that early in the twelfth century there lived at Tetsworth a certain Awcher Chevauchesul with his wife Mabilia and their sons, Robert and Roger, and daughters, Emma and Matilda. Of Awcher Chevauchesul we know no more than is told us by the mention made of him in the Tetsworth charters and by his name. That he was a Norman there can be no doubt. Was he an archer who rode upon a horse, *Archer Chevauchesul*, one of the mounted archers who were found amongst the Norman cavalry? He was, so far as our records witness, the first of his name in England; and as his son Robert was born about the year 1125, Awcher Chevauchesul may have been born towards the end of the eleventh century. Not improbably he was a countryman of Bishop Alexander's, and, as a loyal and trusty soldier, may have been placed by the Bishop in the lordship of Tetsworth to watch and ward his interests on the Oxford and Wallingford roads. His wife's name was Mabilia, and it is probable that she was a Talemasche of the ancient Saxon family of that name, for in the year 1199 we find her grandchildren, Ralph de Auners and Richard Talemasche, together paying in Essex ten marks that they may have the lands of their ancestors. Awcher Chevauchesul was lord of Tetsworth, and Anthony à Wood* tells us that his family were also lords of Hampton, near Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, which hence was called Chevauchesul-Hampton, shortened into Chesilhampton. But at Tetsworth the Chevauchesul family lived, and it is likely that the plan of the village in their day was much as at present. On the ridge by the wayside, at the entrance to the village, stood the church, and probably the priest's house was placed a little to the west of it, on the site of the present vicarage. To the north of the church, between it and 'the Napp,' overlooking the latter, would stand the manor-house, with the village street beyond, the houses as now stretching along the left-hand side of the road. Around the manor-house and church, and extending down the southern slope of the hill, would stretch the lord's demesne, while on the northern slope, and between it and the village street, would lie the common field, extending to the site of the present manor-farm, divided into parallel strips, or allotments as we should now call them, for the use of the villeins, or upper class of villagers. If the village boasted in those early times a hostel, it probably stood near the entrance to the village, on or near the site of the Swan Hotel; beyond the hostel was the common pasture-land. As for the road, though a king's highway, it was but a rough, unmetalled track, passable for horsemen and litters, rarely traversed by wheel carriages, save by the village carts. The houses that bordered it were but sorry huts of timber and mud, having neither window nor chimney, the smoke from the fire finding its way out by a hole in the roof or through the door, and in the way of furniture boasting nothing beyond the cooking utensils, a bench, and possibly a plank bed; outside, in front of each hut, would be a heap of refuse, the playground of fowls and pigs and children, but much valued as a manure.

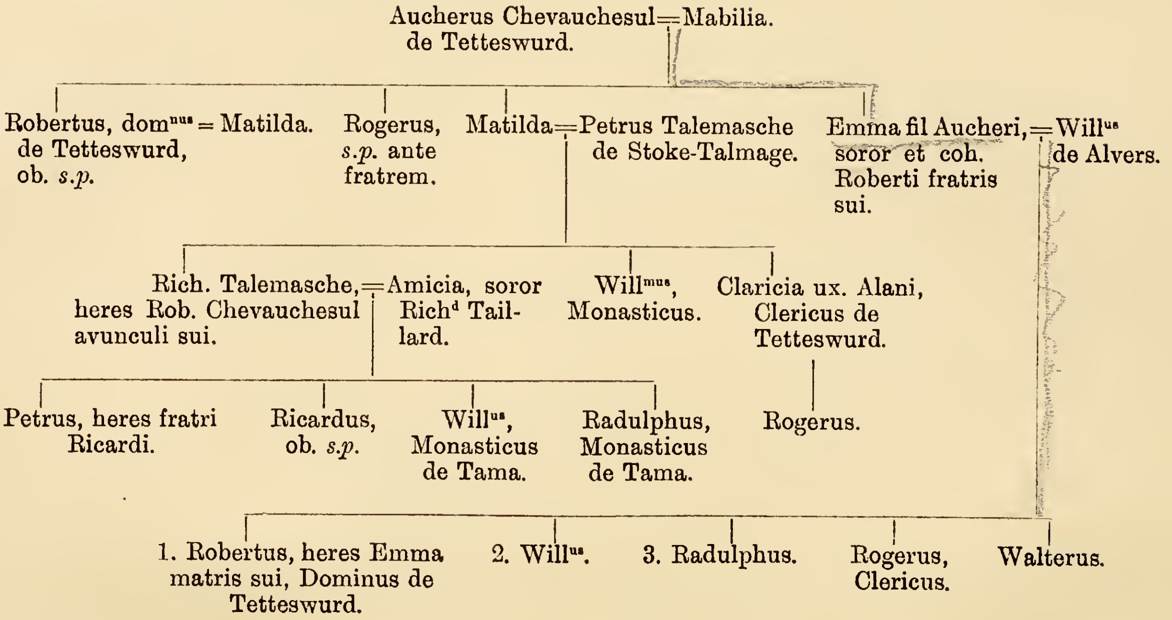
---

* Quoted in 'Oxfordshire Pedigrees,' Sir T. Phillips, p. 78.

Like their lord, many of the villagers were Normans, for it must be remembered that the Norman lords of English lands were living amongst a hostile people, and could not have maintained their foothold, but that they brought with them from Normandy vassals, whom they settled in the English villages.

The manor-house may have been built of stone, for stone of an easily-worked sort was close at hand; but more probably it was of the timber and plaster work of the period, and consisted mainly of the hall. The hall had a high-pitched roof, supported by a central row of rests or pillars, in the middle of which was an aperture, through which escaped the smoke from the hearth below. At the lower end of the hall was a porch or vestibule, and on the further side of this the buttery and the kitchen. At the upper end of the hall the floor was raised to form the daïs, on which was placed the table for the lord, his family, and visitors of good degree. But the table consisted merely of boards laid upon trestles, and was removed after each meal. Such, too, was the table in the body of the hall, which served for the servants and chance visitors. All, lord and servants alike, sat upon benches, for chairs had not yet become a fashion. The windows of the hall were unglazed, and guarded merely by

[From charters in register of Thame Abbey.]


Aucherus Chevauchesul = Mabilia.
de Tetteswurd.
Robertus, domnus = Matilda.
de Tetteswurd,
ob. *s.p.*
Rogerus,
s.p. ante
fratrem.
Matilda = Petrus Talemasche
de Stoke-Talmage.
Emma fil Aucheri, = Willus
soror et coh. Roberti fratris sui.
de Alvers.
Rich. Talemasche, = Amicia, soror
heres Rob. Chevauchesul avunculi sui.
Richd Taillard.
Willmus, Monasticus.
Claricia ux. Alani, Clericus de Tetteswurd.
Petrus, heres fratri Ricardi.
Ricardus, ob. *s.p.*
Willus, Monasticus de Tama.
Radulphus, Monasticus de Tama.
Rogerus.
1. Robertus, heres Emma matris sui, Dominus de Tetteswurd.
2. Willus.
3. Radulphus.
Rogerus, Clericus.
Walterus.

(See Bernard
[illegible])
p. 27

To face p. 17.]

wooden shutters; the floor was of earth, littered at night with straw or rushes to form the common sleeping-place of servants, guests, and the younger members of the family. An opening near the daïs led by a wooden staircase into a tower built against the wall of the hall, the lower story of which formed the cellar, and the upper 'the solar,' the sunny room, the bedroom and only private apartment of the lord and lady. Its scanty furniture consisted of a bed, a bench, a chest or hutch, in which were kept the valuables of the family, and a couple of perches, on one of which the clothes were hung, while on the other the falcons roosted. The floor was boarded, but not carpeted, and the door and the unglazed window were protected by curtains. Probably the solar could boast a fireplace and chimney; yet, despite the fire, it must have been in winter a miserable lodging. And, indeed, all the arrangements of the house were such that we in these days may well wonder that any but the very hardiest of our ancestors survived the conditions of their childhood. The house was no doubt surrounded by a moated wall or hedge, within which were included the garden and stables.

In such a house as this, in the early part of the twelfth century, lived Aucher Chevauchesul, lord of Tetsworth, his wife Mabilia, their sons, Robert and Roger, and daughters, Matilda and Emma. Robert, the eldest son, married Matilda—Matildas or Maudes were many in those days—Roger, the second son, became a monk; Matilda, the daughter, married Peter Talemasche, of the neighbouring village of Stoke-Talmage; while Emma married William Danvers, and eventually was heiress to her brother Robert, who left no children. William and Emma Danvers had sons—Robert, Ralph, William, Roger, and Walter; we do not know of any daughters.

Peter Talemasche and his wife had a son, Richard, and a daughter, Claricia, who married Alan, a clerk or cleric, who lived at Tetsworth. Richard Talemasche married Amicia, sister to Richard Taillard, of Charlbury, and they had four sons, Richard, Peter, William, and Ralph. William and Ralph, as we learn from one of the charters preserved in the register, became monks in Thame Abbey; while, as we learn from the same source, Peter Talemasche became heir to his brother Richard, and died leaving no children.

The relations of the Chevauchesul, Talemasche, and Danvers families are set forth in the appended table, which is compiled from particulars given in the charters of Tetsworth and of Stoke-Talmage.* The charters of the Danvers family will be found in an appendix to this chapter.

The earliest of the Tetsworth charters of the Thame Abbey register are two of Robert Chevauchesul, to one of which Robert Dauers,† doubtless Robert, the father of William Danvers, signs his name as a witness. We find William's name attached as a witness to four of the earlier charters in the register—at page 6 to one of Robert le Gait, grandson of the founder of the abbey; at page 36 to one of John de Horsendun*; at page 37 to one of Richard Talemasche (his wife's nephew?); at page 39 to one of Henry de Witefeld. Careful study of the charters evidences that these are early charters, given prior to the time when the younger Robert Danvers and his brothers Ralph, William, Roger, and Walter began to sign as witnesses to the family and other deeds.

---

* Talemasche, Tollemache, Talmag, Toedmag in Domesday Book. The family were seated at Bentley in Suffolk long before the Conquest, but the first of them of whom we have authentic record is Hugh, who about the year 1138 signed as a witness to a charter of John St. John to Eva, first abbess of Godstowe. This Hugh had lands at Stoke in Oxfordshire, a village which was probably after him named 'Stoke-Talmage.' Hugh had sons Peter and William, both of whom are named in the Thame Abbey register. Final concord of 27 Henry II., Richard Talemasche mentions his father Peter (Thame Abbey Register). In the latter part of the reign of Richard I. a William Talemache of Bentley gave lands to the Priory of Ipswich, and this probably was the William, brother of Peter. From the Assize Roll of 31 Henry III. (No. 699, M. 24) and from an Oxon fine, 126 of 31 Henry III., we learn the presence in Tetsworth of a Richard Talemasche, son of Hugh Talemasche, who, as the roll states, was seised of land there in the same reign. Neither of these members of the family is mentioned in the Thame Abbey register. Hugh was probably the son of William. In a very interesting MS. (Wood, No. 10, Bodleian), the register of the Preceptory of Stanford, there are amongst the Tettesworth charters, f. 62, a charter and a fine, regarding a virgate of land which Peter Talemasche gives to the Templars. The fine is dated 15th day of Hillary Anno Reg. John, xii. (A.D. 1210). Amongst the Stoke Talemasche charters of the same volume are two granted by Peter Talemasche to the Templars. They are not dated, but the names of witnesses to the first, Rich. Foliot, Henry de Wytefeld, Hugh de Talemasche, and to the second, John Doyli and Herbert Quatremayn—indicate late twelfth century deeds. Cf. *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. i., of 1821, p. 275; Charters of Abbeys of Thame and Godstow in Dugdale's 'Monasticon'; Betham's 'Baronetage,' vol. v., appendix 72.

† Other witnesses to the charter are Ric. Talemasche, Samson Prior of Coges, Ric. de Roumeli, Will. fil. Osb., Gilb. Pipard, Will, Presbyter of Tetteswrd.

Unfortunately, ancient charters are more often than not undated; the people to whom they were given trusted to the recognition of some of the many witnesses whom they were careful to procure, and they took care on the death of a donor to have his charter confirmed by his heir. Hence, too often we are left without data by means of which we can learn the donor's period. But, fortunately, even at this distant period we can sometimes by attention to the names of the witnesses arrive at the date of a charter. Thus there is a charter of Robert Chevauchesul's which he gave to the abbey, beginning 'Ego Robertus Chevauchesul assensu Matildis uxoris sui dedit residuum terre sui in Horsendun,' etc, and to this charter follows its confirmation by the suzerain, the Bishop of Lincoln: 'Alexander Lincolnee Episcopus, etc., confirmaverunt Everard† Abbati de Parco Tama illam hidam quam Robt Chevauchesul dedit,' etc. Now, amongst the witnesses to the Bishop's confirmatory document is David, Archdeacon of Bucks, and as he was archdeacon between the years 1145 and 1171, and as Bishop Alexander held the see from 1123 to 1147, the deed must have been signed between the years 1145 and 1147; and as Robert Chevauchesul must have been of age when he gave the charter, we conclude that he was born not later than the year 1124 or 1125. The date receives confirmation from the circumstance that we find mention of Robert Chevauchesul's name in many contemporary documents during the latter half of the twelfth century, but none after the year 1202. We may, therefore, suppose that he died about that time at the age of seventy-five or seventy-six.

In another of these charters Robert, Bishop of Lincoln, confirms the donation which Robert Chevauchesul, with the consent of his mother Mabilia, and his brother Roger, and all his sisters, had made to the abbey, and amongst the witnesses to the deed is Robert, Archdeacon of Oxon. Now, as Robert the bishop held the See of Lincoln from the year 1147 to 1167, and as Robert the archdeacon was Archdeacon of Oxon from the year 1151 to 1167, we learn that Robert Chevauchesul, his mother and brother and sisters were alive, and as all give their consent to the grant, the brother and sisters were presumably of age, at some time between the years 1151 and 1167.

---

* Bodleian Charter, No. 314, of Ralph and John Horsendone to Thame Abbey; date assigned, 1170-80.

† Cotton MS. Julius, c. vii., p. 387, *et seq.*

Another charter which may be noticed here is that of Ralph Danvers, son of William and Emma, who, 'in the ninth year of King Richard' (1197), with the consent of his lord (and brother, Robert Danvers) gives his lands in Tetteswurd to God and the Abbey of Thame; amongst the witnesses are the other brothers Walter and William Danvers, and thus we learn that William Danvers (the father) was dead in the year named, and that at least two of his sons, Robert and Ralph, were then of age. Further, we learn from quite another source* that Robert, the eldest son, was a king's assessor in Oxfordshire in the year 1199, when he must have been a man of age and standing; therefore the date of the births of his father and his mother cannot have been many years subsequent to that of Robert Chevauchesul. For various reasons we would place that of William Danvers at about the year 1135.

It is noteworthy that Emma Danvers, in the charter which she gives to Thame Abbey, provides that prayers should be said for her soul, and for the souls of her father and mother, and of her brother Robert Chevauchesul, and for those of her ancestors and heirs, but makes no mention of her husband. Robert Danvers, the eldest son, does mention both his father and his mother, but his brother William, in his charter, mentions only his well-beloved mother and his Uncle Robert; while another brother, Roger, mentions only his mother, his brothers, and his ancestors.

One is tempted to speculate as to the reason of this omission of the husband's name by his wife and children; to ask whether anything had occurred to cause divided interest in the family, and whether anything is discoverable in the history of the period which might account for such divisions; any circumstances of the times which would be likely to render the name and memory of William Danvers displeasing to the brethren of the Cistercian Abbey? We think there is. Let us suppose that the period is about the year 1170, when Emma has been some time married, and is with her children living with her brother Robert at Tetsworth, while her husband is absent on service with the King in Normandy (one of the Harleian MSS., a copy of an ancient roll, mentions a William Danvers amongst the knights of Henry II.). The news of the day is that of the strife between the Archbishop and the King—the King whom in one of his letters Becket speaks of as being 'opposed to the liberty of the Church by a kind of hereditary right,' and let it be remembered that this is a strife which peculiarly affects the interests of the Cistercians, for the King had threatened the confiscation of their possessions in England, with a view to driving the order to refuse a home to the Archbishop at Pontigny.

---

* Rotul. Curiæ Regis (R.O.).

That the Chevauchesul family were fast friends of the Cistercians their charters bear ample witness, and doubtless Robert Chevauchesul and his sister were quite prepared to credit the reports of the King's evil doings which the monks from the neighbouring abbey would bring to their ears; and great must have been their horror when at last the tidings came of the expedition of Fitzurse and his companions, and its consummation in the murder of the Archbishop. And what of William de Auners—where is he the while? Following the King! Could he have been amongst the company of the murderers? Slightingly he has spoken of the murdered prelate, lovingly always of his master, the King. Can he have been, if not in deed, yet in word and will, an abettor of the crime? Such thoughts may have agitated Tetsworth manor-house—thoughts which the monks of Thame did not scruple to utter, and may have rendered them ill-disposed to receive gifts for the repose of the soul of one whom they deemed excommunicate and unforgiven.

Before leaving for a time William Danvers and the family at Tetsworth, let us notice two contemporary documents which tell us something of their friends and neighbours. The first of these is a charter (*circa* 1170-80, 20,202 in the Bodleian Catalogue) in which Peter Talemasche grants to Robert Doilli for his homage and service, and for one horse of ten marks, and for one hawk which he gave to him, one virgate of land in Tettesworde, namely, that land which William, son of the priest, held, paying one pair of white gloves at Easter in lieu of all service.

The other document is a list of Oxon fiefs* of the Bishop of Lincoln of the year 1201, in which we find together the names of Robert Chevauchesul, Herbert Quatermain, Richard Foliot, Richard Talamasch, Robert de Anuers, John de Builli (Bruly), all individuals who, themselves or their near relatives, were ancestors of the Danvers family.

We may then safely assert that the presence of the Danvers family at Tetsworth during the middle of the twelfth century is clearly established, and partly because this is so, and partly because we are able from the Tetsworth family to trace an unbroken descent, in the male line, to the Danvers of the present day, we begin our memorials with those of William Danvers of Tetsworth and his wife Emma. And though we find ourselves upon less sure ground when we trace the story of William's ancestry, we believe we are able to demonstrate that he was the son of Robert, the son of Geoffrey, the son of Ralph, son of the Norman knight—'De Alvers'—who came to England with the Conqueror.

---

* 'Rotul. de Oblatis et Finibus' (Record Office), p. 155. Some other contemporary documents mentioning Danvers and Talemasche families: Oxon Pipe Roll, 7 John, Rob. de Anuers, Ric. and Peter Talemasche. Oxon Pipe Roll, 9 Henry II., Rob. Chevalchesul in Tetsworth. 'Liber Niger' (1165), Rob. Chevalchesul holds of Bishop of Lincoln. Pipe Roll, Oxon, 1 John, Rob. de Auners in Oxon. Same year Rot. Cur. Regis. Magdalen College Calendar, 'miscellaneous,' *circ.* 1200. Avicia Talemasche and husband Richard give land in Stoke to Hospital of St. John Baptist.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER I.

Chartulary of Thame (*folio* 41).

Rob' de Anuers de j. virgata.

Notum sit omnibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis quod ego Robertus Danvers dedi et concessi et presenti carta confirmavi deo et monachis sancte Marie de Tham' unam virgatam terre in Tettleswrd pro salute anime mee et patris et matris mee et heredum meorum in perpetuam elemosinam, scilicet dimidiam virgatam quam Johannes le Mai tenuit cum pertinentiis suis cum pratis et pascuis et pasturis suis, et aliam dimidiam virgatam terre factam de Dominico meo cum pertinentiis suis, cum pratis et pascuis et pasturis suis scilicet, en la Nuterblachelande dimidiam acram, in Innerblakaland dimidiam acram. En Innermersche dimidiam acram. En Siepfurlong dimidiam acram. A la Wudeweie dimidiam acram. In Stanfurlong dimidiam acram. En est wellefurlong dimidiam acram. Super Ettenhill unam acram pro Crofta. En lachegore unam acram. En Haldingfurlong dimidiam acram. En Brocfurlong dimidiam acram. En la Meswendelonde 1 acram. Suꝑ Benehulle dimidiam acram. Subtus Benehull dimidiam acram. Super Cocstowe dimidiam acram. In Cocstowehelde dimidiam acram. Subtus Cocstoweheld dimidiam acram. En la cūba dimidiam acram. In Berefurlong dimidiam acram, ad caput Cūbe dimidiam acram. In Smedefurlong dimidiam acram. Super Stapelhulle dimidiam acram. Super Trindhulle dimidiam acram. In Smalemedefurlong dimidiam acram. In Mersfurlong dimidiam acram. Et ad istam dimidiam virgatam terre habebit totam meam partem prati sub Gardine quod jacet juxta pratum quod Adam tenuit. Quam scilicet predictam dimidiam virgatam Emma mater mea dederat fratri meo Willielmo Danvers et ipse mihi in hanc elemosinam faciendam reddidit, videlicet solutam et quietam ab omni servicio et exactione seculari. Ita tamen quod monachi dabent mihi et heredibus meis unam libram Cinimi annuatim ad festum sancti Michaelis. Et ego et heredes mei hanc elemosinam eis warantizabimus. Salvo tamen servicio domini Regis. Testibus, Ric’ Talemasche, Will’ de Bruges, Rad’ foliot, Ric’ filio ejus, Ric’ pirun, Rad’ de Colebi, Nichol’ De oilly, Huberto Quatremains, Will’ Danuers, Rad’ Danuers, Alano clerico, Gileb’ Magno, Laurentio de Stoke, Michaele Grimbald, Walto de Chulewrđ, Rob’ Valance, et aliis.

Rad’ de Anuers (*folio* 41*b*).

Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus. Quod ego Rad’ Danvers assensu domini mei Roberti Danvers anno Nono Regis Ricardi dedi et concessi et presenti. Carta confirmavi deo et Abbatie de Tham’ in puram et perpetuam elemosinam totam terram meam in villa de Tetteswrđ, scilicet duas virgatas terre cum Masagiis et Croftis, quas Rob’ Cheuauchesul mihi dedit pro homagio et servicio meo, et illam quartam partem virgate cum Masagio quam Gilebertus Chena tenuit, et duo alia Masagia que Wiłłs presbiter et Wiłłs faber tenuerunt. Cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in Masagiis et Croftis, in terra arabili et pratis et pasturis, plene et integre, libere et quiete ab omni servicio et exactione seculari. Salvo servicio domini Regis, et una libra piperis que de eodem tenemento debetur Roberto Danuers et heredibus suis annuatim ad Pascha. Hanc autem elemosinam ego et heredes mei Abbatie de Tham’ warantizabimus. Testibus Ric’ Talemasche, Petro filio ejus, Wiłło et Waltero Danuers, Walt’ Bikestrop, Joh’ filio ejus, Adā clerico de Cennor, Ric’ clerico de Burtona.

Rob’ de Anuers (*folio* 41*b*).

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Rad’ Danvers dedi Monachis de Tam’ pro saluti anime mee et antecessorum meorum redditum duorum solidorum de terra quam Gileb de Kene tenet de me in Tetteswrd in puram et perpetuam elemosinam solutam et quietum ab omni seculari servicio et exactione. Testibus Ric’ Talemasche Wall’ de Bikestrop’ Ric’ pirun, Ric’ Gernun et aliis.

Rob’ de Anuers (*folio* 41*b*).

Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus quod ego Rob’ Danvers concessi et presenti Carta confirmavi deo et Abbatie de Tham’ totam donacionem quam Rad’ Danvers frater meus dedit Abbatie de Tham’, scilicet duas virgatas terre cum Masagiis et Croftis de feudo meo in Tetteswrđ, et duo alia Masagia, scilicet Wiłłi presbiteri et Wiłłi fabri, et quartam partem virgate quam G.

Chena tenuit de eodem Rad'. Cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in terra arabili et pratis et pasturis, plene et integre, libere et quiete ab omni servicio et exactione seculari. Salvo servitio domini Regis et una libra piperis que michi et heredibus meis debetur annuatim de eodem tenemento ad Pascha. Pro hac autem concessione et confirmatione dedit mihi abbas j. Marcam argenti. Testibus qui prius.

Will' de Anuers (*folio* 41*b*).

Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus quod ego Wiłłs Danvers concessi et presenti Carta confirmavi donationem quam frater meus Rad' Danvers fecit Abbatie de Tham' scilicet duas virgatas terre cum Masagiis et Croftis, quas Rob' Cheuauchesul avunculus suus et meus illi dedit pro homagio et servicio suo, et illam quartam partem virgate terre cum Masagio quam Gileb' Chena tenuit, et duo alia Mesagia que Wiłłs presbiter et Wiłłs faber tenuerunt cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, sicut Carta ejusdem Rad' testatur. Hanc autem donationem totam, cum ei sicut heres de jure succedere debuissem, confirmare curavi, pro salute anime mee et dilecte genitricis mee et avunculi mei Rob' Cheuauchesul et aliorum antecessorum meorum. Testibus qui prius, et aliis.

Will' de Anuers (*folio* 42).

Sciant tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Wiłłs Danuers dedi et concessi et hac mea Carta confirmavi Deo et Beate Marie et Monachis apud Tham' Deo servientibus unam virgatam terre in villa de Tettleswrd cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Illam scilicet quam Mactild tenuit in pura et perpetuam elemosinam. Habendam et tenendam de me et heredibus meis, bene et in pace, libere et quiete integre et honorifice. In planis et pascuis, in viis et semitis, in pratis et pasturis et omnibus aliis libertatibus et aisiamentis. Reddendo singulis annis ad Natale domini unam dimidiam libram piperis mihi et heredibus meis pro omni servitio et exactione quantum ad nos pertinet. Salvo Regali servicio. Et hanc terram ego et heredes mei dictis Monachis warantizare debemus. Testibus qui prius et aliis.

Rog' Danuers (*folio* 42).

Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus quod ego Rog' Danuers clericus dedi et concessi et presenti carta confirmavi deo et ecclesie sancte Marie de Tham' et Monachis ibidem Deo seruientibus unam virgatam terre in Tetteswrd cum omnibus pertinentiis suis.

Illam scilicet quam Wiłłs Bunetun tenuit quam michi mater mea Emma Cheuauchesul et frater meus Rob' Danuers pro servicio meo dederunt. Hanc virgatam terre eis cum corpore meo pro salute anime mee dedi et pro salute matris mee et fratrum antecessorumque meorum, liberam et quietam ab omni servicio et exactione seculari, preter Regalia et unam libram Cinimi. Testibus, Ric' Talem, Osm̃do sac', alano clerico, Rad' Danuers, Gaufr' filio Gunne, Ric' fił vmfr' et aliis.

Emma Cheuauch' (*folio* 42).

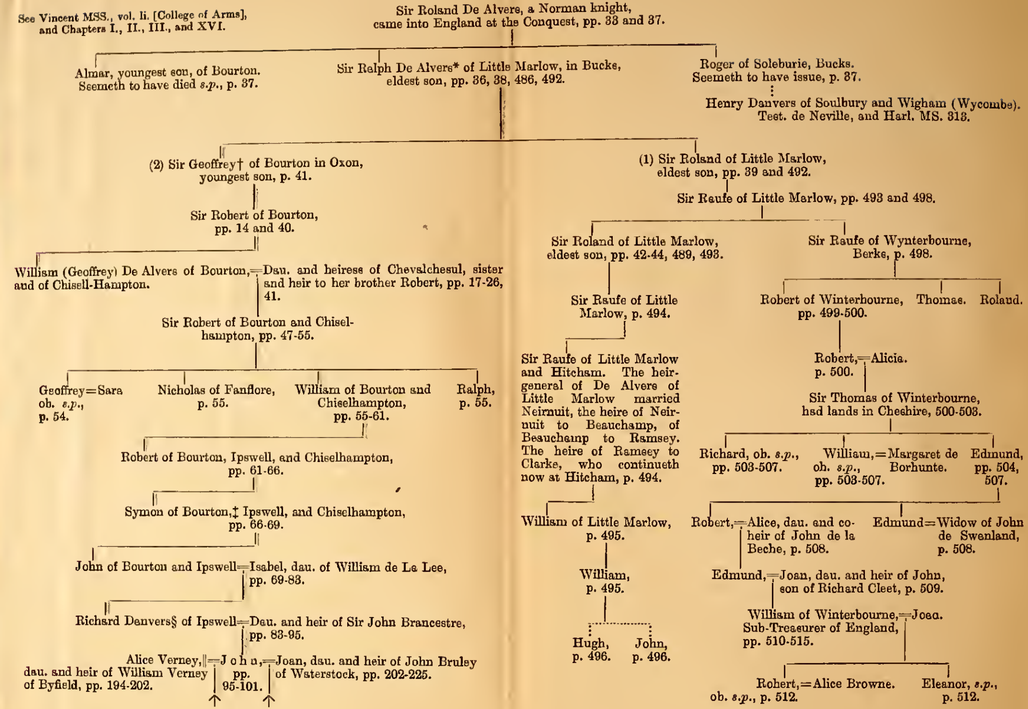
Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus quod ego Emma filia Aucheri Cheuauchesul dedi et concessi et hac presenti Carta mea confirmavi. Deo et Ecclesie sancte Marie de Tham' et Monachis ibidem deo servientibus in puram et perpetuam elemosinam duas acras terre in Tetteswrd de hereditagio meo unam videlicet in Scipfurlong, et alteram in Blakelande, pro anima patris et matris mee et fratris mei Rob' Cheuauchesul, et pro anima mea, et salute heredum et antecessorum meorum. Solutam et quietam ab omni servicio et exactione seculi. Et sciendum quod predictas acras Monachis prefatis cum corpore meo dedi. Testibus, Ric' Talem, Rog' persona de Tetteswrd, Will', Rad' et Walt' Danuers, Hel' Daure, alano clerico, et Rob' herede meo, qui huic donationi assensum prebuit.

Illam scilicet quam Wiłłs Bunetun tenuit quam michi mater mea Emma Cheuauchesul et frater meus Rob' Danuers pro servicio meo dederunt. Hanc virgatam terre eis cum corpore meo pro salute anime mee dedi et pro salute matris mee et fratrum antecessorumque meorum, liberam et quietam ab omni servicio et exactione seculari, preter Regalia et unam libram Cinimi. Testibus, Ric' Talem, Osm̃do sac', alano clerico, Rad' Danuers, Gaufr' filio Gunne, Ric' fił vmfr' et aliis.

Emma Cheuauch' (*folio* 42).

Notum sit omnibus Christi fidelibus quod ego Emma filia Aucheri Cheuauchesul dedi et concessi et hac presenti Carta mea confirmavi. Deo et Ecclesie sancte Marie de Tham' et Monachis ibidem deo servientibus in puram et perpetuam elemosinam duas acras terre in Tetteswrd de hereditagio meo unam videlicet in Scipfurlong, et alteram in Blakelande, pro anima patris et matris mee et fratris mei Rob' Cheuauchesul, et pro anima mea, et salute heredum et antecessorum meorum. Solutam et quietam ab omni servicio et exactione seculi. Et sciendum quod predictas acras Monachis prefatis cum corpore meo dedi. Testibus, Ric' Talem, Rog' persona de Tetteswrd, Will', Rad' et Walt' Danuers, Hel' Daure, alano clerico, et Rob' herede meo, qui huic donationi assensum prebuit.

DANVERS OF BUCKS, BERKS, AND OXON.



See Vincent MSS., vol. li. [College of Arms], and Chapters I., II., III., and XVI.

Sir Roland De Alvers, a Norman knight, came into England at the Conquest, pp. 33 and 37.

Almar, youngest son, of Bourton. Seemeth to have died *s.p.*, p. 37.

Sir Ralph De Alvers* of Little Marlow, in Bucks, eldest son, pp. 36, 38, 486, 492.

Roger of Soleburie, Bucks. Seemeth to have issue, p. 37.

Henry Danvers of Soulbury and Wigham (Wycombe). Test. de Neville, and Harl. MS. 313.

(2) Sir Geoffrey† of Bourton in Oxon, youngest son, p. 41.

Sir Robert of Bourton, pp. 14 and 40.

William (Geoffrey) De Alvers of Bourton, and of Chisell-Hampton.=Dau. and heiress of Chevalchesul, sister and heir to her brother Robert, pp. 17-26, 41.

Sir Robert of Bourton and Chiselhampton, pp. 47-55.

Geoffrey=Sara ob. *s.p.*, p. 54.

Nicholas of Fanflore, p. 55.

William of Bourton and Chiselhampton, pp. 55-61.

Ralph, p. 55.

Robert of Bourton, Ipswell, and Chiselhampton, pp. 61-66.

Symon of Bourton,‡ Ipswell, and Chiselhampton, pp. 66-69.

John of Bourton and Ipswell=Isabel, dau. of William de La Lee, pp. 69-83.

Richard Danvers§ of Ipswell=Dau. and heir of Sir John Brancestre, pp. 83-95.

Alice Verney,‖=John, pp. 95-101.=Joan, dau. and heir of John Bruley of Waterstock, pp. 202-225.

dau. and heir of William Verney of Byfield, pp. 194-202.

(1) Sir Roland of Little Marlow, eldest son, pp. 39 and 492.

Sir Raufe of Little Marlow, pp. 493 and 498.

Sir Roland of Little Marlow, eldest son, pp. 42-44, 489, 493.

Sir Raufe of Little Marlow, p. 494.

Sir Raufe of Little Marlow and Hitcham. The heir-general of De Alvere of Little Marlow married Neirnuit, the heire of Neirnuit to Beauchamp, of Beauchamp to Ramsey. The heire of Ramsey to Clarke, who continueth now at Hitcham, p. 494.

William of Little Marlow, p. 495.

William, p. 495.

Hugh, p. 496.

John, p. 496.

Sir Raufe of Wynterbourne, Berks, p. 498.

Robert of Winterbourne, pp. 499-500.

Thomas.

Roland.

Robert,=Alicia. p. 500.

Sir Thomas of Winterbourne, had lands in Cheshire, 500-503.

Richard, ob. *s.p.*, pp. 503-507.

William,=Margaret de Borhunte. ob. *s.p.*, pp. 503-507.

Edmund, pp. 504, 507.

Robert,=Alice, dau. and co-heir of John de la Beche, p. 508.

Edmund=Widow of John de Swenland, p. 508.

Edmund,=Joan, dau. and heir of John, son of Richard Cleet, p. 509.

William of Winterbourne,=Joan. Sub-Treasurer of England, pp. 510-515.

Robert,=Alice Browne. ob. *s.p.*, p. 512.

Eleanor, *s.p.*, p. 512.

* Shield, chevron separating three mullets—tinctures not given.
† Shield, chevron between three escallops—tinctures not given.
‡ Four bendlets, in chief three escallops—tinctures not given.

§ Arms of Simon Danvers, impaling Brancestre.
‖ Brancestre impaling Verney, gules two bars or, in chief two bucksheads cabossed of the second.

CHAPTER II.

A.D. 1066—1200.

Leaving for a time William Danvers and his family, let us endeavour to disentangle the story of his ancestry. We have it on the authority of the Domesday record that a Robert de Aluers, in the year 1086, held a house *in capite*—that is, direct from the King—in the city of Northampton; and it is more than probable that this Robert is one of those of that name whom in the same record we find holding as sub-tenants in the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, however, the surname of a sub-tenant is rarely given in the Domesday Book, and it is, therefore, only occasionally that one of them can be identified.

The name de Auvers appears in its contracted form, Daũers, in two of the most authentic copies of the Battle Abbey Roll, those of Holingshed and Duchesne. We know quite well that many authorities deny the existence of such a roll at or near the period of the Conquest; while others, though going so far as to allow the existence of the roll, assert that its custodians were as venal as those of the golden book of Fiesole, and for a money payment would enter therein the name of any family, thereby giving to its ancestry a false claim to the antiquity and honours of Senlac.

Amongst men of note who condemned the roll was the late Sir Egerton Brydges, an accomplished historian and genealogist; yet he was willing to admit that those families whose names appear in the 'Liber Niger,' or other authentic records of the twelfth century, may fairly be assumed to date from the Norman Conquest. Now, the Duchess of Cleveland, in the preface to her work on the Battle Abbey Roll, has pointed out that of the seven hundred and forty names which are included in Holingshed's and Duchesne's copies of the roll, far the greater number belong to families whose names occur in authentic early records, while only a dozen unquestionable interpellations can be discovered when Sir Egerton Brydges' test is applied. Surely, then, the name of Danvers has a right to a place in such a roll; for it is one which is found in Domesday Book, while three of its members are mentioned in the 'Liber Niger,' and we have found another member of it at Tetsworth in the early part of the twelfth century. Therefore we may pass on to inquire how it came about that Robert de Aluers acquired a house at Northampton, and whence he came.

Northampton was an important town at the period of the Conquest—one which had often figured in the wars of the Danes and Saxons; and here, after the Conquest, Simon de St. Liz, whom William made Earl of Northampton, built a strong castle, in which many great councils were held during the reigns of our Norman kings. Domesday Book tells us that in the reign of Edward the Confessor the town had sixty burgesses and as many mansions. At the time of the Survey the three largest householders were Robert de Mortain, who, as his share of the spoil of the town, had thirty-seven mansions; William de Peverel, who had thirty-two; and the Bishop of Coutance, who had twenty-three.

Robert de Alvers is the subject of a long notice by MM. Léchaudé-D'Anisy et de Ste.-Marie in the first part of their work, 'Recherches sur le Domesday.' These gentlemen, accomplished Norman antiquaries, made themselves thoroughly acquainted with all that they could learn from the ancient records of the province regarding the history of the Norman families of the period of the Conquest; and having done so, attempted to compile a history of those of them whose ancestors are mentioned in the Domesday Book. Unfortunately, they were not able to complete the work, but they published the first part of it, which includes a memoir of the Danvers family. But it must be noted that these gentlemen wrote from a French point of view, and not with the intention of showing the descent of our English houses. 'Alvers, Robert de,' obtained a house in Northampton from the Conqueror, and was himself of French origin, and the source of the English family of the name. Our authors state that there were many places named Auvers in the provinces of Normandy, Maine, Anjou, and the Isle of France, and they proceed to mention families of the name of de Auvers which they consider had a right to claim descent from Robert de Auvers of the Domesday Book. In Normandy they find in the 'Livre de Cens et Rentes' of the Abbey of Mont St. Michel (a manuscript compiled in the year 1270) that the abbey had bought land of Garin de Auvers, in the field de Auvers, in the parish of Ardevon. Jean de Auvers held of the abbey the fief of André Auvers, in the commune of Monthébert. Also they found the names of Ralph and Randolph de Auvers in the same book; and in the book of rents of the Abbey of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte (compiled A.D. 1296) they find the names of Reginald and Ralph de Auvers, and in the same record many concessions to the abbey 'ab antiquitate de dono armigeri de Auvers.' In Maine are two parishes named 'Auvers'—Auvers-Montfaucon, belonging to the house of Assé, of which at an early period a cadet took the name of Auvers. The other village is Auver le Hamon, formerly a barony, of which in the twelfth century Robert de Auvers was lord. He contributed to the priory of Solesme, and also to the foundation of the Abbey of Boisrenou, in the year 1189. Our authors, though they do not give further reason for so doing, ascribe the origin of the last-mentioned family to Robert de Auvers of the Domesday record, and consider the other families named branches of it. Clearly these gentlemen place the origin of the de Auvers family either in Auvers of Normandy, or in one or other of the places of the name in Maine.

But we have some further particulars regarding the ancient Norman family de Auvers, for the knowledge of which we are indebted to the kindness of the Abbé J. Briant, formerly Vicar of Auvers, and now Curé of Binniville, a village in the neighbourhood of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte. This Auvers, one of the three just mentioned, is in the peninsula of the Cotentin, which was formerly a portion of the dukedom of Normandy. Auvers is situated three or four miles west of Carentan, a town at the base of the peninsula, while about twelve miles north-west of Auvers is the town of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte.

The Abbey of St. Sauveur was founded by Neel, Vicomte of St. Sauveur and Seigneur d'Auvers, about the year 1087, and was endowed by him with a large part of his lands.* The rest of his possessions passed eventually to his neighbours, the family of Harcourt, one of whom, Richard de Harcourt, married Jeane Tesson, niece and heir to Roger, nephew or grandson of Neel. Thus the Harcourts, neighbours and allies of the family of St. Sauveur, became lords of that town and also of Auvers.

To return to Neel. We find that about the year 1090† he confirmed to the Abbey of St. Sauveur the donations which had been made to it, 'ex dono bonorum hominum,' as follows:

William de Auvers, son of Helge, gives the tithes of the mill of Neuville (Nova Villa), and in Ingulvilla the tithes of three vassals.

Robert de Auvers, and William, son of Turges, give to the abbey all that they hold in the church of Auvers, and the tithes of a mill in Tornebosc. Robert also gives the tithes which he holds in Auvers, and three cottages.

William, son of Helge, de Alvers—the village here bears the name by which Robert de Alvers is called in Domesday Book—also gives to the abbey all that he had in the church—that is (scilicet) de Alvers, with the consent of his lord, Eudes, viscount (Eudes, brother to Neel).

We gather from the above that the de Auvers family was one well known by that name, and that they were a family of good standing, having vassals, and property in three places besides that which they possessed in the village of Auvers. And we think there are two considerations which may be made use of to support the view that it was from this branch of the family that the English family took their origin, and they are as follows: The family of Auvers and that of the Harcourts were neighbours in the Cotentin, and we find that shortly after the Conquest these families* were together large landholders in the village of Frolesworth, in Leicester, not far from Northampton; and it may be worth noting that, at the time of the Survey, a Robert, possibly Robert de Alvers of Northampton, held the manor of Schernford, only two miles distant from Frolesworth.

---

* Leopold Delisle's 'History of the Family of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte.' Valognes, 1867.

† Cartulary of St. Sauveur, quoted by L. Delisle in the appendix to his history.

Moreover, in another way, we think we find a connection between the de Auvers family of the Cotentin, and Robert Danvers of Northampton, for Auvers Cotentin was in the diocese of Geoffrey de Mowbray, Bishop of Coutances, who, as we have seen, was one of the three largest householders in Northampton, and who was a kinsman of Neel, lord of St. Sauveur and Auvers. Not improbably Robert de Auvers was one of the knights who fought under the Bishop's banner as lord of St. Lo, and thus we may account for the presence of the knight with his one house, and the Bishop with his three-and-twenty, together in Northampton. For this Bishop of Coutances was not a mere Church dignitary; he preferred, we are told, the title of 'lord of St. Lo,' and was a worthy companion in arms of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux.†

These were the two Churchmen who spent the night before the battle of Senlac in rousing the spirits of William's army to a high pitch of religious fervour, as soldiers in a cause blessed of God and the Pope. In the Bayeux tapestry we see the Bishop depicted in the thick of the fight, animating the soldiers, club in hand, for, as a priest, he might not with a sword shed blood.

Therefore we think that of the three villages mentioned by the French antiquaries, in one of which they would place the origin of the Danvers family, we may with good reason select Auvers, Cotentin; where, as we have distinct evidence, a family taking its name from the village was seated before and at the time of the Conquest—evidence which is wanting for that early period in the case of the two places in Maine bearing the same name.

Alvers, or Auvers, Cotentin, is a typical Norman, one might almost say English, village, for even now it differs little in appearance from many a village of our own country. The road from the busy little town of Carentan leads to the village through a hilly country, presenting in its broad grassed borders and big wild hedges, in which beech and oak and elm are plentifully interspersed, a sight very familiar to wanderers in the by-ways of England. The pretty, straggling village, with its thatched stone cottages, scattered amongst orchards and gardens, and dominated by the ancient church, brought strongly to mind another home of the Danvers family which we had lately visited, the village of Ipswell in north Oxfordshire.

---

* Nichol's 'History of Leicestershire,' vol. iv., Part i., pp. 180 and 188.

† 'Il portait la cotte de maille aussi et peut être même plus volontiers que la rochet.'—Dupont's 'History of the Cotentin.'

The village boasts a fine Norman church, which would look quite in place in any English village, and this, with its churchyard, stands in an angle of the grounds of the Château d'Auvers, long the residence of the family of Morin d'Auvers, descended by heiresses from the Harcourts, anciently barons of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte and Auvers.

The château is a building of the eighteenth century, and is approached by two fine lime-tree avenues ; it is surrounded by well-wooded grounds, but these as well as the house have a somewhat neglected and forlorn appearance, due perhaps to the fact that the owner, the representative of the family, lives elsewhere.

The church is in excellent preservation, but, like so many of our English country churches, has the brand-new look which a modern restoration too often confers. The edifice was originally Norman, but was probably completed and enlarged during the Early English period. It consists of a central tower, a nave and north and south aisles, which are continued to the east end of the church ; indeed, the church east of the chancel arch is slightly broader than the western portion. The chancel arch is Early English, the east window Decorated. The font is coeval with the Norman building, circular, enriched with an arcading of round-headed arches.

On a brass plate affixed to the pillar to the south of the altar is the following inscription:

'Cy gist Haut et puissant Seigneur Messire Pierre Armand de Saint Marie, Marquis D'Auvers. Que la pieté, la droiture et son exactitude a remplir tous ses devoirs ont rendu plus recommandable encore que noblisse de son extraction. Une mort saintement prévenne a terminé sa vie le 28 de Jan. MDCCV. à l'age de LXVI. ans.'

To the north-east of the church is the burial-place of the family, with many monuments, none, however, of ancient date. The latest is that of the Countess 'Angele de Grosmesil, Comtesse Morin d'Auvers,' who died at Rome, September 23, 1878. Here, as in many other churches of Normandy, any ancient monuments which may once have existed have been destroyed, and their destruction is laid by the people at the door of the Protestants; but, though the Huguenots of the sixteenth century did, doubtless, in their iconoclastic rage, destroy many a fair shrine and tomb, the men of the Revolution, the men who rifled and destroyed the tombs of the Kings of France at St. Denis, were yet more destructive; while the monuments which were left, instead of being honoured and preserved, have, in the case of many churches, both in Normandy and in England, been destroyed by the too great zeal of the church restorer of modern times.

And now we may picture Roland of Alvers leaving home in the autumn of the year 1066 to join the army which Duke William was assembling at Dives for the invasion of England. A tall, large-limbed man, broad-chested and long-armed, with big bony hands well fitted to grasp sword or lance, of ruddy complexion, with bushy eyebrows overhanging his deep-set blue eyes. His head guarded by the conical helmet, and the face by the projecting nose-piece; his body protected by a coat of mail, while from his neck hung the great kite-shaped shield; at his side is the long straight sword, and his right hand wields the heavy spear which the Norman knight made his weapon of first offence.

'Mailed hauberks and brassarts the knights mostly wore,
Steel hose and bright helmets they all of them bore;
With shields on their necks, and with hand grasping lance,
And each knight was known by his own cognizance.'*

Whether the Norman knights bore, as did those of later times, armorial bearings upon their shields is a debated question, but we may be sure that, if so, the cognizance upon the shield of de Alvers was the chevron and mullets which his descendants displayed not long after the time of the Conquest.

---

* Wace's 'Roman de Rou,' translated by Sir Alexander Malet.

And, doubtless, our knight fought in the centre of the army with the Normans who formed it, and were led by the Duke's half-brothers—Robert, Earl of Mortain, and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, with whom was the Bishop of Coutances. And when, by stratagem not less than by valour, the English entrenchment on the hill of Senlac was won, and the footmen had cleared the way for the charge of William's knights, Norman lance and sword overmatched the broad English axe; and the burghers of London, and the Thegns and Housecarls of Middlesex, and Kent, and Oxford, and Berkshire, fell and died where, through the battle, they had stood round the Golden Dragon of Wessex under which their forefathers had fought at Assendun. But with them fell many a Norman soldier, and of the invading army few were those who escaped unhurt from the perils of the day. Amongst the survivors, so tradition says, was the knight of Alvers. 'Fort en loyalté,' he reaped the reward of his valour in manors in Northampton, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire, given to him by the leaders of the centre of the Norman army under whom he fought.

Amongst the Harleian collection of manuscripts is one, No. 4031, which includes an interesting sketch of the origin of the Danvers family in England, and runs as follows:

'Danvers, whose surname Alverse or Aluers, after ye French pronunciation Auvers, is now written Danvers. Alvers was and yet is the name of a village or town in France within or adjoining the Duchy of Normandie, from whence there came a knight into England with William, Duke of Normandie, at the Conquest, who being planted here in regard of that Towne, of which before his coming he was, both he himself at that time, and his posterity were surnamed by the same and called diversly at divers times, but in terms not much differing—de Alverse, de Aluers and de Auvers. And now at last Danvers.

'The Norman knight of Alvers came into England at the Conquest with William the Conqueror, and was preferred to sundry lands and livings in the County of Bucks, Oxon and Berks, whereof the greatest parte had been ye inheritance of

1597057

one Lewyn, an English Earle before ye Conquest. And which lands for the most parte he held by knights service of Robert, Earl of Morteyn and Cornwall, Odo, Bishop of Bayeaux and Earle of Kent, and of Miles Crispin, Lord of Wallingford, who were all three half-brothers by ye mother to King William the Conqueror; insomuch as he is therefore supposed to have been of affinity to ye said King by his mother. Which seemeth the more likely, for of his posterity some had ye Christian names of Rolland, Randulph, as some of ye ancestors of Arlotte, mother of ye King, had.'

Collins, in his 'English Baronetage' (edition of 1771, vol. 1, p. 449), says that the family of Danvers descended from Roland d'Auvers, who entered England with William the Conqueror, whose son Ranulph received of Crispin, Lord of Wallingford, whose knight he was, the manors of Dorney, Marlow, and Hitcham, to hold of his honor of Wallingford, and his son Roland was Dapifer to the Baron of Wallingford (Brian Fitz-Count).

Amongst the Harleian, Lansdowne, and Additional MSS.,* many genealogies of the Danvers family may be consulted. As regards the earliest members of the English family of the name, these genealogies, though they more or less differ, yet all agree in this, that a Ralph or Ranulph of Little Marlow, Hitcham and Dorney, was the son of the Norman knight who came to England with the Conqueror, and the common ancestor of the Danvers of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Borkshire. All of these genealogies agree also in connecting the early members of the family with the honour of Wallingford, and we have the authentic evidence of the 'Liber Niger' that Ruel de Aluerse was in the year 1165-66 a knight of that honor.

This 'honor' or 'barony' of Wallingford included many manors in the three counties just mentioned, and its lord at the time of the Conquest was Wigod, kinsman and cupbearer to Edward the Confessor. At Wallingford Wigod received William on his march after the victory at Senlac; and here the Conqueror received the homage of Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, and of many Saxon nobles, and at Wallingford he married one of his most favoured nobles, Robert de Oilli, to Ealdgyth, Wigod's daughter and heiress. It is a question which has been debated by historians whether Wigod had a second daughter, Matilda, who married Miles Crispin, or whether this Matilda was the daughter of Robert de Oilli and his wife, the daughter of Wigod.* Freeman, in his 'History of the Norman Conquest,' supports the former view, but the point is settled against him by a deed which may be found amongst the fragments of the ancient register of Oseney Abbey.† This is the record of an inquisition taken in the year 1183, before Ranulph de Glanvil, Justiciar, and it states distinctly that Matilda, the wife of Miles Crispin, Baron of Wallingford, was the daughter of Robert de Oilli, and that after Miles' death, in the year 1107, she married Brian Fitz-Count. Miles left no children, but Brian Fitz-Count had two sons by his wife Matilda;‡ they were, however, both lepers, and in the year 1154, having placed them in his Castle of Abergavenny, and his wife Matilda entering a convent in Normandy, Brian departed for the Holy Land.

---

* Cf. Sims' 'Manual for the Genealogist,' his 'Index to Pedigrees,' and Bridge's 'Index to Pedigrees.' Also Marshall's 'Genealogists' Guide,' and the Catalogues in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum.

To return to the Danvers family. We have given our reasons for believing that the ancestor of the family came from Alvers in the Cotentin in the year 1066, while twenty years after this we find a Robert de Alvers holding *in capite* a house in Northampton, and we have adduced evidence that about the same time a Ralph Danvers, son of the earliest member of the English family, was seated in Marlow, Hitcham, and Dorney, holding his lands of Miles Crispin, lord of the honor of Wallingford. Now, we believe that this Ralph Danvers is a second member of the family of whom there is record in the Domesday Book, for there we find that 'Ralph' held the manor of Dorney of Miles Crispin, as of the honor of Wallingford, while Ralph, and Roger, who as we shall find reason to believe was Ralph's brother, held of Miles Crispin in Marlow and Hitcham, and Roger held, also of Miles Crispin, in Soleburie.

---

* Cf. Rev. J. C. Blomfield, 'Deanery of Bicester,' Part i., p. 58, and Part vi., p. 91.

† Cot. MSS., Vit. E. xv., p. 22.

‡ Cf. 'Testa de Nevill,' p. 115.

That Ralph and Roger of the Domesday record belonged to the Danvers family receives strong support from a pedigree of the family which was compiled by Augustin Vincent, and is on record at the College of Arms (No. 51, Vincent MSS., p. 34). Vincent, as we learn from Noble's 'History of Heralds' College,' entered the college about the year 1615, and early in his career became the favourite assistant of Camden, who employed him as his deputy in some of his visitations. Vincent was also under-keeper of the records in the Tower, records from which he made voluminous collections. He was a man, we are told, of great ability and industry, and all his work is still esteemed as being of a very trustworthy character.*

The pedigree in question is one of the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire branches of the Danvers family, and it asserts that the first of the name in England was Sir Roland de Alvers, who had three sons, Ralph, Roger, and Almar. Sir Ralph, the eldest, was of Little Marlow, and had two sons—Sir Roland, the eldest, of Little Marlow, and Sir Geoffrey, the younger son, of Bourton in Oxfordshire. Roger, Sir Ralph's brother, was, Vincent tells us, of Soleburie (now Soulbury, Bucks), and 'seemeth to have issue.' Almar, the third son, was of Bourton in Oxon, and 'seemeth to have died without issue.'

Not to follow this pedigree any further just now, we will only add, in confirmation of it, that Sir William Dugdale, who in the year 1638 joined the Heralds' College, repeats Vincent's statement that the Danvers family in England were descended from a Sir Roland d'Alvers that came in with the Conqueror ('History of Warwick,' vol. i., p. 308).

Therefore we confidently assume that Sir Roland de Alvers was the first of the name in England, the father of Sir Ralph, of Marlow, Dorney, and Hitcham: of Roger of Marlow and Soleburie, and father, or possibly uncle, of Robert de Alvers of Northampton. It is true that Vincent does not mention Robert amongst the sons of Roland; but then he was writing only of the Bucks and Oxon branches of the family, and besides he may not have met with any record of Robert's descent, and did not therefore introduce his name into the pedigree. But it is only reasonable to suppose that this Robert of Northampton was the ancestor of the Danvers family of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, a family which from the earliest times tradition and similarity of cognizance have allied to the other branch of the family in England. John Phillpotts, Somerset Herald in 1633, amongst his collections (Lansdowne MSS., No. 269, p. 258) has a note regarding the family which asserts that the Norman de Aluerse, his Christian name is not given, who came into England at the time of the Conquest,* was the progenitor of the families both of Buckinghamshire and of Leicestershire.

---

* A reverend *seigneur* of the college once remarked to the writer, 'We swear by Vincent.'

Sir Roland was probably born about the same time as the Conqueror, A.D. 1027, and may very well have been brother to William de Auvers the son of Helge, whom we find amongst the early benefactors of the Convent of St. Sauveur le Vicomte. It seems likely that he married before the time of the Conquest, A.D. 1066, as we find his sons holding manors when the Survey was completed in the year 1086. Probably Roland was then dead, or possibly he may have returned to Normandy, leaving his sons in possession of the inheritance which he had won in England.

We have already mentioned our opinion that Sir Roland's son, Sir Ralph, married the sister of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, an opinion which is based upon the mention, in the charter of Alan Earl of Brittany and Richmond, of Robert de Aluers of that time, as son of the Bishop's nephew—son, that is, of Geoffrey, son of Ralph and the Bishop's sister. This Ralph, the Duchess of Cleveland tells us, signed as witness to a charter of Robert Earl of Leicester's to St. Ebrulf's monastery, and he is probably the same Ralph de Aluers whom we find signing, as one of Bishop Alexander's men,† to a charter given by Robert Earl of Leicester to the Bishop.

---

* Phillpotts in Lansdowne MS., 269.

† Undated charter, No. 209, in the 'Registrum Antiquissimum' of the Lincoln Cathedral muniments.

Born in Normandy, Ralph Danvers lived through the period of the Conquest, and witnessed the final struggles of the English for independence, the final establishment of the Norman rule in England, the stormy days of the Red King, the accession of Henry I., his struggle with, and defeat of, his brother Robert, and his marriage with Matilda of Scotland, an English princess, the niece of Eadgar Ætheling. Ralph Danvers died at or about a time which was one of great sorrow throughout England, for it saw the death of Prince William—'the Ætheling,' as the English delighted to call him—drowned in the White Ship, off Barfleur, as he was returning to England.

According to Vincent, Ralph left two sons, Roland and Geoffrey, of whom the elder, Roland, succeeded his father in his Buckinghamshire and Berkshire estates, while Geoffrey received lands at Bourton in North Oxfordshire, and probably in Warwick also.

Roland, the elder brother, is mentioned in an authentic record, to which we have now to refer, a venerable volume, the 'Liber Niger,' of the Exchequer—called 'niger' from the black colour of its covers. This book was compiled during the reign of Henry III., and includes a list of the knights' fees of the kingdom during the year 1165 or 1166, a list which was prepared in anticipation of an aid to be demanded by Henry II. on the occasion of the marriage of his eldest daughter Matilda with Henry the Lion, of Saxony. The list in question returns the names of the King's tenants *in capite*, who certify how many fees each holds and the names of those who hold them. In the list—and let it be remembered that the list is one of unimpeachable authenticity—we find the names of three members of the Danvers family. In Northampton Hugh de Auvers holds thirteen and a half carucates of land of Godfrey Ridel, the noble who succeeded Ranulph Glanville as Justiciar of the kingdom. In Berkshire, of the honor of Wallingford, Ruel de Aluerse holds two knights' fees; while in Warwickshire Robert de Aluers of Shuckborough holds three knights' fees of William, Earl of Warwick.

To take, first, Ruel de Aluerse. We may safely identify him with the Roland whom Vincent tells us was eldest son of

Sir Ralph, and succeeded him in Little Marlow, which he held of the honor of Wallingford. One of the biographers of the family tells us that he was 'dapifer' (steward) to Brian Fitz-Count, who followed Milo Crispin, as lord of the honour of Wallingford. A second entry in the 'Liber Niger' is that of Robert de Aluers, and regarding this Dugdale, in his 'History of Warwickshire' (vol. i., p. 308), writes as follows: 'Shuckborough, in Warwick, held before the Conquest by Lewinus, whose lands, together with those neighbouring of Turchil of Warwick, came to the ancient Earls of Warwick, who enfeoft of this place the family of Danvers, Dalvers, or Davers, all which ways it is written in records, and that not long after the Conquest. For certain it is that Robert de Aluers held three knights' fees of William Earl of Warwick, 12 Henry II., *de veteri feoffamento.* Robert de Aluers was descended from Roland D'Alvers, or Dauvers, that came in with the Conqueror, and was ancestor of the Danvers of Upton, Dauntesey, Culworth.'

Copy of a charter given by Robert D'Aluers to his man, John, of Shuckborough, may be found in 'Madox's Formulare,' No. 77, and it appears that the Shuckborough estate shortly passed to the family of that name.*

We believe that this Robert Danvers of Shuckborough was the Robert of Bourton whom Vincent tells us was son of Geoffrey, father of the Danvers who married Emma Chevauchesul, and whose name appears in the Thame Abbey register as a witness to the charter of Robert Chevauchesul. Shuckborough is only a few miles distant from Bourton, and the date of the entry in the 'Liber Niger' quite falls within the lifetime of Robert,† the son of Geoffrey.

---

* For some account of this family refer to the index of Sir William Dugdale's 'History of Warwick' and to Baker's 'History of Northampton,' i. 62 and 371. Dugdale, p. 310, writes: 'This family did bear the old arms of Danvers, only the colours different—sable, a chevron between three mullets arg.—and it was usual with the tenants of great men to take arms resembling those of the lords they held from.'

† In the Pipe Roll of Derbyshire of 22 Henry II. (1175) Robert de Alvers pays a fine, and in the Pipe Roll of the same county of 1 John (1199) Robert de Auvers appears. Possibly, these Roberts were Robert de Bourton and his grandson Robert, son of William Danvers and Emma Chevauchesul.

According to Vincent, the father of Robert was Geoffrey de Alvers, whose shield Vincent's pedigree of the family displays, the chevron with three scallop-shells in the place of the three mullets. This device would indicate that Geoffrey was a crusader or pilgrim, and not improbably he was one of the knights whom Godfrey de Bouillon summoned to his assistance at Jerusalem. He is no doubt the Geoffrey, or Godfrey, de Alvers who signs to a charter given at Staneleigh near Kenilworth, *circa* 1122-25, to Kenilworth Priory (Salt Society's Journal, vol. ii., p. 195).

The grandson of Geoffrey was the Danvers who married Emma Chevauchesul; we say 'the Danvers,' because while the Chartulary of Thame Abbey points to 'William' (Gulielmus) as his name, Vincent calls him Geoffrey (Galfridus). There is, however, some degree of satisfaction to be gained from this want of accord, namely this, that it shows that Vincent made use of records other than those of Thame Abbey—he does not mention Tetsworth—in constructing the table of descent which he gives; his evidence, therefore, is complementary of ours; and as regards the difference of the names, anyone who has been in the habit of studying ancient records, often decayed or mutilated, knows the difficulty which frequently occurs in verifying a proper name.* Of far more consequence it is that Vincent had learnt from records—probably those which he studied to such good purpose in the Tower, of which many have perished since his time—the marriage of a Danvers with Emma Chevauchesul: the name of his father and of his father's seat, and of his eldest son. Vincent calls Emma's husband 'of Bourton and Cheselhampton,' and as lands in Cheselhampton, or to give the place its full name Chevauchesul-Hampton, formed a part of the estates of the Chevauchesul family, we may assume that lands in Cheselhampton, as well as in Tetsworth, formed the dowry of Aucher Chevauchesul's daughter Emma.

---

* In the Cottonian copy of the Thame Chartulary, made by Nicholas Charles in 1611, the tables of descent which he compiled from the evidence of the charters give William Danvers as the name of Emma's husband. Not long since the writer submitted a Christian name occurring in a record of the fourteenth century to three experts, all of whom read it differently.

To return to the entries in the 'Liber Niger'; those of Roland and Robert we have considered; there remains that of Hugh of Northampton. Vincent does not mention him. The author of the pedigree in the Lansdowne MS., 269, makes him the younger brother of Sir Ralph of Marlow and the ancestor of the Danvers of Frolesworth and Shakerston in Leicester.

Mr. Nichols,* in his great 'History of Leicestershire,' states that very soon after the Conquest the lordship of Frolesworth was in the possession of a Norman, Thomas de Sacheville, and that at the same period the families of Danvers and Harcourt were considerable landholders there. Felicia, daughter of Thomas, carried the lordship to the Danvers family by her marriage with Hugh de Auvers, a marriage which is authenticated by a charter quoted by Mr. Nichols, by which Hugh and his wife Felicia make a donation to the church of Frolesworth. They had a son, Bertram, who married Alice, relict of Robert de Burton (Robert Danvers de Burton ?). Nichols gives a series of charters, which carry on the descent of the Frolesworth family to the middle of the fourteenth century.

Another venerable work of the same character as the 'Liber Niger,' is the 'Liber Rubeus Scaccarii,' which contains a copy of the roll of 1166, of the 'Liber Niger,' and other scutage rolls and inquisitions, dating nearly up to the end of the reign of King John. Amongst them is one of the 33 Henry II. (1186), in which we find a Ruel de Aluers holding two fiefs of the honor of Wallingford.

The next record of which we shall make use is one which may be found in the 'Placitorum Abbrevatio,' a volume of selections from the ancient rolls of the King's Court, which was published by order of Government in the year 1811. At page 51 we find Rohesia Pecche or Peachy, one of a fine old English family renowned in its day, bringing an action in the year 1207, or thereabouts, against Dionis de Auvers, concerning lands in Little Marlow. At page 73 we find the reply of Dionis and the judgment. Dionis avers that the virgate of land in 'Parva Merlawe,' Little Marlow, belonged to her on the warrant of her son Roland, while Rohesia, like others who have a bad case, did not appear in court, 'Nec dolor vel suspirium attornati ejus,' which, very freely translated, may mean that her attorney did not find it worth while to waste his breath in the matter; judgment therefore was given for Dionis.

---

* Nichols' 'History of Leicester,' vol. iv., Part i., pp. 180 and 188. See also Visitation of Leicester of 1619.

About the same time we have the family again in court, and this time the trial is in Berkshire, and concerns lands in Wgfeld (Wokefield), an ancient seat of the family. The suit is an interesting one, but unfortunately the original record is in parts undecipherable. Little, indeed, remains of it, excepting the name of Roland de Anuers and his opponent Nicholas de Bulehe, and Roland's reply; and it is this, the reply, which is of most interest in the record of the case, for Roland states that the land in Woghfeld came to him from Torold the son of Geoffrey, his ancestor; and this case is almost certainly the origin of the family tradition that it is descended from the marriage of the Conqueror's Norman knight with the daughter of Torold the son of Geoffrey, a Saxon Thegn.

This Roland is again met with in one or two other suits during John's reign, and it may be presumed that he was either a careless or litigious man; but his passing troubles of some seven centuries ago give us trustworthy evidence of the presence of the family in Berks and Bucks at the period.

The history of the elder branch of the family, that of Little Marlow and Dorney, will be found in a subsequent chapter. We shall pass on to that of the younger branch, that of Bourton and Tetsworth in Oxfordshire; but we will first notice very briefly the tradition, repeated by three or four genealogists, of the family regarding the marriage with the daughter of the Saxon Thegn.

We believe that the tradition has its origin in the claim made by Roland Danvers in the year 1207, that certain lands in Woghfeld in Berks belonged to him in right of their having come to an ancestor as dower on his marriage (*in maritagium*) with the daughter of Torold the son of Geoffrey. But Roland does not say who this ancestor was; he may have been, as Phillpotts asserts, in the table of descent already quoted, the Sir Roland of the time of the Conquest.* If so, Sir Roland married the lady in question before the Conquest, for we have seen good reason for believing that, nineteen or twenty years after, he had sons of age and capable of holding manors; or Sir Roland marrying shortly after the Conquest, died before the completion of the Domesday Survey, when his manors had been divided amongst his sons, whose names therefore appear in the Domesday record. But there is really no evidence that it was the first Roland who married the Saxon heiress; the bridegroom may have been his grandson, the second Roland, great-grandfather to the Roland of 1207.

As the lands which Roland claimed were in Berkshire, the probability is that Torold was a thegn of that county, a county in which after the Conquest were many orphans and widows; for, as Professor Freeman writes, 'To have been a thegn of Berkshire implied almost as a matter of course that he had died at Senlac.' And it may be noticed that the village of Aston or Easton on the Berkshire downs, immediately beneath Blewbury Hill, the traditional site of a great battle between the Saxons and Danes, has from time immemorial been known as 'Aston-Torold,' and at an early period became a possession of the Danvers family.

Let us briefly recapitulate what has now been advanced regarding the descent of the Danvers family. We assume, on the authority of Vincent and Dugdale, that the first of the name in England was Roland de Alvers, and in support of this view we find that the grandson and great-grandson of Roland were also so called.

Then as the sons of Roland we have Ralph of Marlow and Dorney, Roger of Soleburie, Almar of Bourton, and we think Robert of Northampton, or he may have been Roland's nephew. Next the sons of Ralph, Roland of Marlow and Dorney, and Geoffrey of Bourton. Then, on the authority of Vincent, we have Robert the son of Geoffrey—the Robert of the Thame Abbey register, the son of the nephew of Alexander of Lincoln, and the Robert of Shuckburgh of the 'Liber Niger.' Then as the son of Robert we have the William of Bourton, Chiselhampton, and Tetsworth, who married Emma Chevauchesul; and we have following him his eldest son Robert, who, as we shall find in the next chapter, called his eldest son Geoffrey, and his second William.

---

* Duchesne, 'Histor. Norman Scriptores,' Paris, 1619, fol., p. 1123, has amongst the names of those who flourished in England prior to the Conquest Dauers and Daueros, and p. 1125, names of those who came to England with the Conqueror, Dauvers and Dauernoun.

CHAPTER III.

A.D. 1210—1350.

From the foregoing pages we learn that the ancient name of the Norman village from which the Danvers family took their surname was Alvers, and that they therefore were called after it, de Alvers. This name in appearance and sound differs considerably from the name as now written, and it may be interesting to trace the changes through which de Alvers became converted into Danvers. The first change was that of the *l* into *u*, a change very common at the time, and especially so in the case of proper names, thus, Alta Ripa became Dautrive, de Albineio became Daubeney, Albericus Aubrey, the name of the village of Alvers, became Auvers, and that of its lords either de Alvers or de Auvers. Next the *e* of De was omitted, and the *D* became the first letter of the name, which was then written Dalvers or Dauvers—we do not remember to have seen the name written with *D'*, D'Auvers, in any ancient record; certainly that was not the usual method of spelling it. Then Dauvers was written in the contracted forms, Da͠us or Da͠uers. Further, it must be remembered that the *v* had no character of its own, it was written as a *u*. But for the *m* the *n* and the *u* we have in the ancient MS. just three or two straight strokes. Dauvers would be written *Da*, then four strokes for the *u* and the *v*, and then *ers*. But the eye alone is unable to determine in what way these strokes are to be read; the name might be Dauurs or Danuers, Dauners or Danners. In the year 1297 Sir Thomas Danvers was summoned to military service as de Anuers, de Auners, Danvers, Daunvers. De Alvers and de Auvers were the oldest forms of the name, next Dauvers, with its contracted forms

Daũs and Daũers; then we have de Auners, de Anuers, and rarely de Anners, and Dauvers, Danuers, Dauners, Danners. De Anuers or Danuers were the more common forms; the *u* was pronounced as a *v*, and the bearer of the name was called Danvers. There can be little doubt that Danvers was the name of the family at least as far back as Robert, the son of William Danvers and Emma Chevalchesul. By the way, in the latter name we have another example of the change of the *l* to *u*—Chevalchesul, the more ancient form, became Chevauchesul. The Berkshire family very commonly introduced another letter into the name, and were called Daunvers; this was no doubt the name by which Sir Thomas, Sheriff of Oxford and Berks, was known in the time of Edward I., and his descendant, William Daunvers, the last male representative of that line, who died in the year 1439, had the name so engraved upon his seal. Another form of the name, commonly used in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was Davers; that is, the contracted form of the name Dauers, written without the mark of contraction—George Davers, of Calthorpe, so signs his name in the Lay Subsidy Roll of the year 1566, and William Davers, of Culworth, is so called in the Lay Subsidy Roll of the year 1534. In comparatively recent times the Culworth family wrote their name d'Anvers. John Danvers, who died in the year 1642, was probably the first to do so. However, the younger branch of the family which sprung from Daniel Danvers, John's uncle, spelt their name in the ancient way.

And now to return to the history of the Tetsworth family, taking it up about the year 1210. William Danvers, his wife, Emma, and her brother, Robert Chevauchesul, are dead, and Robert Danvers, son of William, is 'dominus de Tettesworde.' Richard Talmasche and his wife, Amicia or Avicia, rule in the manor-house at Stoke-Talmage, and her sister Claricia is married to Alanus clericus de Tettesworde. How shall we translate the word clericus? Does it denote Alan's profession, or, as has been assumed, his surname? His profession, we think, for in the original register the word clericus, many times repeated with Alan's name, is written with a small *c*, while the initials of the proper names are in capitals, thus:

'Alanus clericus et Claricia uxor sua.' Moreover, were clericus a proper name, the Clerks would be the most numerous family of the period, for a Christian name, such as Alanus, with the appended word clericus, may be found in almost every ancient deed. Clericus simply meant that Alan was a clerkly person; he may have been a lawyer, or he may have been a Clerk in Holy Orders. Nor is the fact of Alan's marriage evidence against the latter alternative. The feeling of the people amongst whom the married clergy lived appears to have upheld such unions; moreover, many rectors and vicars, possessing the very moderate requirements needful for the first tonsure, took minor orders, and those only, and were called clerics, enjoyed the privileges of their order, and held Church preferments which often were hereditary. Such clerics could not, however, say Mass, hear confessions, or preach, and they therefore employed for the spiritual work of their parish a vicar or curate, who often was but badly paid. It is not, therefore, improbable that Alan was the cleric of Tetsworth, while the William, priest of Tetsworth, who appears in the charters, may have been his curate.

Robert Danvers, or 'de Anuers,' as his name is written in the charters, was, at the period of which we are writing, married, and, as we learn from the register of Eynsham Abbey and from other sources, had four sons—Geoffrey, William, Nicholas and Ralph. His rightful lord was Hugh Wallys, or Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, but the Bishop had been driven from the kingdom, and was living at Pontigny with Archbishop Langton, while in his place William de Cornhull had charge of the temporalities of the see. Simon was Abbot of Thame, and for him and for his brethren the time was one of trouble and sadness, for it was the King's constant endeavour to revenge himself upon the Archbishop by vexing the Church of England, and especially did he lay a heavy hand upon the Cistercian brethren, to one of whose houses, that of Thame, he was often a near neighbour. But, indeed, the whole land was suffering from the results of the King's evil ways, for, in consequence of the 'interdict' which had been placed upon the kingdom 'from Berwick to the Channel, from the Land's End to Dover, the churches were closed, the bells silent; the only clergy who were seen stealing silently about were those who were to baptize new-born infants with a hasty ceremony, those who were to hear the confession of the dying, and to administer to them, and to them alone, the Holy Eucharist. The dead (no doubt the most cruel affliction) were cast out of the towns, buried like dogs in some unconsecrated place—in a ditch or a dung-heap—without prayers, without the tolling bell, without funeral rite. Those only can judge the effect of this fearful malediction who consider how completely the whole life of all orders was affected by the ritual and daily ordinances of the Church. Every important act was done under the counsel of the priest or the monk. Even to the less serious the festivals of the Church were the only holidays, the processions of the Church the only spectacles, the ceremonies of the Church the only amusement. To those of deeper religion . . . to hear neither prayer nor chant . . . with no saint to intercede, no sacrifice to avert the wrath of God . . . souls left to perish or but reluctantly permitted absolution in the instant of death.'* And yet, though the interdict thus cruelly affected the people, and though John by his tyranny had estranged their hearts, his own strength and courage appeared to be unbroken; his friend John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, remained faithful, and he was ably sustained in carrying out his plans by his Chancellor, Robert de Gray, who had bought his office by a payment of 5,000 marks. And indeed, so far as John's personal feelings were concerned, the interdict gave him little trouble; had he not always scoffed at priests and turned his back upon the most holy rites? Yet, though daring in his impieties, the King was strangely craven in his superstitions, and never went a journey without hanging a chain of relics about his neck. Not that he depended wholly on them for his safety, for he took care to add as a guard a strong force of mercenary troops, which accompanied him in his constant journeyings.†

To the Tetsworth villagers the King's cortège must have been only too common a sight as he travelled from the Tower or from Westminster to Oxford, or during his shorter excursions from Oxford, Wallingford, or Dorchester, places where he often stayed, or from his houses at Woodstock and Brill. With dread they would hear of his approach, and ill news would it be to Robert Danvers that the King would dine at his house. Quite recently the injustice and cruelty of the King had been brought, as it were, to the very doors of the villagers, when the students of Oxford dispersed to their homes, exasperated by the punishment of two of their number, who by the King's command were hung because of the accidental death of a woman at Oxford. And it is probable that the misrule of the King brought to Tetsworth many unwelcome visitors—wandering parties of mercenary troops from Oxford or Wallingford, and robber bands which had begun to infest the country. From such enemies it was the duty of the lord to defend his villagers, while the operations of the civil war between John and his barons, which often focussed in the neighbourhood of Tetsworth, would oblige Robert Danvers to arm and enrol himself on one side or the other.

---

* Milman's 'Latin Christianity,' vol. v., p. 274.

† Duffus Hardy's 'Itinerary of King John.'

About the year 1220 Robert's eldest son Geoffrey married, and to him, as dowry for his wife Sara, Robert gave one and a half knight's fiefs in Tetsworth, which formerly formed a part of the inheritance of Robert Chevauchesul. It is likely that at this time Robert left Tetsworth, returning to the ancestral house at Bourton, and we find him signing as a witness* with 'his son Geoffrey to a charter of this period, which was given by Simon, son of Roger de Bourton, to Chaucombe Priory.' And, too, it was about this time, when Robert was growing old, that he bethought him, as did all good Christians in those days, in what way he might dispose of a part of his worldly goods for his soul's welfare. To Thame Abbey he had already given a portion of the lands in Tetsworth which came to him from his mother's family, and it is likely that after dowering his son Geoffrey's wife he had little or no land left at his free disposal in the neighbourhood. Moreover, the church of his paternal village, Little Bourton,* belonged to the Benedictine Abbey of Eynsham, and at Fanflore (now Fawler), some five miles from Eynsham, both he and the abbey owned land, and therefore he determines that for the good of his own soul, and for the souls of his ancestors and of his heirs, he will make over to the abbey the land in question.

---

* Amongst the miscellaneous charters (Augmentation) at the Record Office are two giving land to Chaucombe Priory by Simon, son of Roger de Bourton. One—vol. xv., No. 274—has amongst the witnesses Rob. de Auners and his son, Galfrid. de Auners. The other—vol. xx., No. 251—is witnessed by Phil de Croperi, Fulc. Basset, Ric. de Prestcote, Ric. de Williamscote, and others.

Of Eynsham Abbey scarce a vestige remains, but, as in the case of Thame Abbey, the register is preserved, and is amongst the muniments of Christchurch, Oxford,† to which some of the possessions of the abbey were ultimately transferred. Even in the time of Robert Danvers the abbey was an ancient foundation, built and endowed for the Benedictines by Aylmer, Earl of Cornwall, about the year 1000. For a time the abbey seems to have been deserted, Stowe in Lincolnshire becoming in the year 1091 the abode of the fraternity. But in the year 1109 Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln, restored the church and buildings, and removed to it the abbot and monks of Stowe. As in the case of all the Benedictine monasteries, this of Eynsham was a centre of intellectual activity, in which young men were taught and prepared for life, while to children was imparted the little learning which the fashion and the needs of the day demanded. In the cloisters such as those of Eynsham 'the rumours, guesses, and stories of the day, the strange fortunes of kings and kingdoms were reported, commented on, picturesquely dressed up and made matter of solemn morals or of grotesque jokes, as they might be now in clubs or newspapers. Here went on the literary work of the time;

---

* The church of Little Bourton was given to Eynsham Abbey by Alexander de Bourton with the consent of his son William (Charter No. 117, Eynsham Abbey Register). The charter is not dated, but it was confirmed by Bishop Hugh (St. Hugh) of Lincoln, 1186-1200. See charters Nos. 23 and 55, and also, on p. 1 of the register, a list of churches belonging to the abbey.

† We are greatly indebted to the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter of Christchurch for giving us every facility for studying this valuable manuscript.

here, with infinite and patient toil, the remains of classical and patristic learning were copied, corrected, sometimes corrupted or ornamented; here, and here almost alone, were the chronicles and records kept year by year, so scanty, often so imperfect and untrustworthy, yet on the whole, so precious.'*

In characters bright and clear were those ancient records written, the monasteries rivalling one another in the beauty and neatness of their penmanship, and imparting to the records a distinctive character of style and material which still enables an expert to recognise the work of the various scriptoria.

And to Eynsham Abbey Robert Danvers takes his way, and confides to the friendly ear of the abbot his wish to convey to him and to his brethren certain lands in order that prayers might be duly offered in their church for the welfare of his soul and for the souls of his ancestors and heirs. And after a few days he revisits the abbey, and meets there a company of friends—Peter Thalemasche from Stoke, and Robert de Sydenham, and William Blount from Sydenham and Haseley, and from Charlbury his relatives Gilbert and Richard Taillard, and Hugh le Poer from Ottendun, and from Bourton Thomas de Bourton, whose ancestor had given to the abbey the church of Little Bourton, and these, 'with many others,' witness Robert Danvers' signature to the deed, of which a copy will be found in the appendix to this chapter. By it he conveyed to the abbey in perpetuity lands and tenements in Fanflore which belonged to him as his share of the inheritance of Robert Chevauchesul, free of all service, saving the rights of the King, and saving certain rights, which are specified, of his sons Nicholas and Ralph, and of his son and heir, William.

The charter was renewed by Robert's son William, by his grandson Robert, and some hundred and fifty years after the first Robert's death by his great-great-great-grandson, Richard Danvers of Ipswell, for it was essential to the value of such a charter that it should be from time to time repeated, lest, as the witnesses died out and became forgotten, the validity of the deed might be questioned.

---

* Dean Church's 'Life of St. Anselm,' p. 53.

And the deed signed, Robert returns with a lightened heart, and prepares himself for death. He has lived through troublous times: he recollects the day when, in his boyhood, the news came to Tetsworth of the Archbishop's murder before the altar at Canterbury, and the rebellion of the King's sons as a consequence of the deed. Robert had seen the coronation of Richard, quickly followed by his departure for the Holy Land, the usurpation of his brother John, and the troubles which followed thereupon; the death of Richard, and the seventeen years of the reign of him of whom it was said that, 'Foul as it is, hell itself is made more foul by the presence of John!'

But, mindful of those who were to follow him, Robert Danvers could console himself in the hope that now there was promise of peace and happiness for the kingdom. Those great Englishmen, Hubert de Burgh, the Justiciar, and Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, ruling in the young King Henry's name, were with a strong hand restoring law and justice to the people; the barons were in course of being subdued; the foreign soldiery were being driven from the land; and the kingdom had been freed from the presence of the Papal Legate, who, since John's shameful submission to the Pope, had ruled as overlord in the government of the realm.

In Robert's day, too, had come about the separation of his own and of other families from the fiefs which they had held in Normandy. Members of the family might, by making their submission to the French King,* still exercise some sort of jurisdiction over their Norman fiefs, but practically they were lost to them, for the descendants of the knights who fought at Senlac had become Englishmen and the subjects of King John, whom Philip Augustus had expelled from Normandy. And yet, though this loss may have been considerable to many English families of Norman origin, the thoughtful amongst them must have realized that this separation from Normandy conduced to the independence of England and to the strengthening of the nation's life. In

---

* J. H. Wiffen's 'House of Russell,' vol. i., p. 99.

Robert Danvers' day, also, the Great Charter of the rights of the people had been won from the King, and doubtless in the security of his own personal rights, and those of his neighbours and dependents, he had happily realized that the King might no longer at his will levy aids and scutages, and that no man might be molested, imprisoned, or punished but by the judgment of his equals or by the law of the land. And in his own neighbourhood, notwithstanding the persecutions and anarchy of the period, there had been a manifest progress in the social life of the people; and in evidence thereof Robert had witnessed at Thame and Haseley and Sydenham, at Swalcliffe and Bloxham and Hanwell, and in other villages around, the building or enlargement of many churches—churches which are still reckoned amongst the glories of our land.

In a charter which has been quoted, Robert Danvers speaks of his second son William as his heir, Geoffrey the eldest son having died during his father's lifetime. But in virtue of the one-and-a-half fiefs which Geoffrey had received as dower for his wife, he became a military tenant of the Bishop of Lincoln, and as such appears in a document, which has been copied into the 'Testa de Nevill' (p. 120), which gives the names of the Bishop's tenants about the year 1220. That Geoffrey died about this time we learn from two deeds, which are amongst those entered in the register of Eynsham Abbey, and of which copies are placed in the appendix to this chapter. By the first of these Geoffrey gives to his wife, Sara, the lands which his father had given to him on his marriage with her, and the second deed is one executed in the year 1224, after Geoffrey's death and after his widow's marriage to Henry de Kenesworth. The first of these deeds was a 'charter,' the second a final concord or 'fine.' The charter was the old and somewhat clumsy method of conveying land, while the fine was the outcome of the discovery that no title to property was so good as one that had been contested and settled in a Court of Justice, and that a fictitious suit would serve all the purposes of a real one for the need in hand.

In the case in question, a suit is raised in the Court at Westminster between the Abbot of Eynsham and Henry de

Keneswörth, appearing for his wife Sara, late wife of Geoffrey Danvers; and as the result of the hearing, Henry and Sara recognise the right of the Abbot to the land in question, while in consideration of the agreement, end (*fine*,* hence the usual name of such a deed) and concord the Abbot pays to Henry and Sara nineteen marks, and William Danvers, as brother and heir to Geoffrey Danvers, recognises the right of the Abbot to the land which his father Robert Danvers had given as dowry to Sara.

The younger sons of Robert de Anuers were Nicholas and Ralph, of whom the former settled at Fanflore, where we shall find his descendants. Amongst the Fanflore charters in the register of Godstow Abbey are two of William Blount to the abbey, one of which is witnessed by Rich. de Prescote, Fulke Basset, Will. Ulger, Nicholas Danuers, and Will de Bodicote. The other is witnessed by both Nicholas and Ralph Danuers, Fulk Basset, Will. Ulger, Thom. Smart, and Will de Bodicote. The witnesses are those who are found signing with William Danvers in charters to Chaucombe Priory, and serve, therefore, to identify Nicholas and Ralph as the younger brothers of William.

William Danvers succeeded his father Robert about the year 1223, at a time when Henry III. was still in his minority, and Hubert de Burgh, the Justiciar, and Archbishop Langton were practically the rulers of England. Shortly after his accession to the estates William Danvers renewed his father's charter to the Abbey of Eynsham, and at the time that he did so the names of the witnesses evidence that he had made Bourton his home, for they are the names of

---

* Two copies of the proceedings were made upon a sheet of parchment, room being left between to allow of the copies being sundered, each with corresponding deeply indented edge. The fines as now preserved are usually upon slips of parchment about three inches in depth and twice as long. Hundreds of thousands of them remain, and may be referred to at the Public Record Offices. They are for the most part bound in books, each containing fifty fines, in which the fines are chronologically arranged and numbered. The fines of each county are kept separate, but thos which refer to two counties are placed under the heading of 'Divers Counties.' These fines are of immense value to the genealogist and county historian, but for want of indexes the labour of searching them is in the case of most of the counties very great.

North Oxon people. The registers of Thame Abbey and of the Priory of Chaucombe bear evidence of the same nature, and indeed, after the time when William's father and uncles gave their charters to the Abbey of Thame, we do not find members of the Danvers family signing as witnesses to charters in the Thame register, whereas out of the small number of the charters* of Chaucombe Priory, close to Bourton, which have been preserved, the signature of William Danvers is appended in no less than five. William's son and heir, another Robert Danvers, was, moreover, distinctly 'Robert Danvers of Bourton.'

In the Close Roll† of 9 Henry III. we find a William de Auners going on service to join Richard, the King's brother, who commanded the English army in France; and further, we find William's name in a very interesting manuscript now in the possession of Queen's College, Oxford, which contains, amongst other documents of the see of Lincoln, two lists of the Bishop's tenants. The manuscript in question was written about the year 1300, and is in fine condition, forming a thick folio volume. It contains two principal lists of the tenants of the see of Lincoln, the first of which, compiled in the tenth year of the confirmation of Bishop Hugh the Second, *i.e.*, in the year 1225, is a very full one, containing, besides a list of those who held military fiefs, a complete list of all other tenants, their names, occupations, rents, and the conditions of their tenures. The second list—that of the year 1300—includes only the names of those holding fiefs. The Rev. Dr. Magrath, the Provost of Queen's College, was good enough to transfer the manuscript for our use to the Bodleian Library, enabling us to examine it at leisure, and to obtain copies of that portion of the manuscript which refers to the hundreds of Thame and Banbury.

---

* Three of these are at the Record Office, Miscel. Charters, Augn., vol. xv., No. 272; vol. xvi., No. 149; vol. xx., No. 140. Amongst the muniments of Lincoln Cathedral, Banbury charters, one of Rob. Prior of Chaucombe to Robert Grostête (1235-1253). One at British Museum.—Additional Charters, No. 7,518.

† Rotul. Lit. Claus., vol. ii., p. 58.

The lists of fiefs are as follows:

A.D. 1225.	A.D. 1300.
Thame 100.	
Robert de Vipont (veteri Ponte), as heir of his wife Idonea, one fief in Bocland.	Rob. de Clifford and Idonea de Leyburn, two fiefs in Blokeland (Rob. de Clifford married Isabel, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Rob. de Vipont. Idonea, her sister, married 1, Rog. de Leybourne; 2, John de Cromwell).
Thomas Granville (Graneuel), one fief in the same place.	
William de Eyneford, two fiefs in Stoke.	Will. de Kirkeby, two fiefs in Stoke, near Aylesbury.
Henry de Colville (Colleuile), one fief in Ettendone and Mortone.	
Peter Talemasche, one fief in Tettesworth.	
William Danvers (de Anuers), one fief in Tettesworth.	Robert Danvers (Danuers), heir of Peter Talemache, two fiefs in Tettesworth.
Herbert Quatremain, one fief in Weston and Estcote.	John de Feudus, one fief in Estcote.
Bartholomew Foliot, half a fief in Stoke.	Henry de Bruly, half a fief in Waterstoke.
Walter de Clifford, two fiefs in Midleton (Milton).	William Jugge, third part of two fiefs in Milton.
Henry Doily, one fief in Estcote.	Richard de Louche, two parts of two fiefs in Milton.
William, son of Osbert, 5th part of a fief in Thame.	
Heirs of Joceline de Stowe, one virgate of land in Thame, which belongs to half a fief in Stowe.	Ric. de Leuek, 5th part of two fiefs in Thame.
Banbury 100.	
Robert de Chaucombe, two fiefs and three parts of a fief in Burton, Wardington, Risle, and Dene.	Dominus John de Segrave, two fiefs and three parts of a fief in Burton, Wardington, Rislee, Dene.
Robert de Vipont, one fief and a half of the heritage of his wife Idonea in Burton and Prestcote.	Rob. de Clifford and Idonea de Leyburn, one fief and a half in Burton and Prestcote.
Simon de Croperia, one fief in Croperi, Kildesby, and Sutteford.	Henry de Cropry, one fief in Cropry, Shutford, Kildesby.
Ric. de Williamscote, one fief in Williamscote.	Henry de Williamscote, one fief in Williamscote.
Ralph, son of Robert . . . one fief in Wardington and Cleidone.	

Ralph de Wicham, three fiefs in Wicham, Swaleclive, Eppewelle, and Fanflore.	Rob. de Wikam, three fiefs in Wikam, Swaleclyve, Eppewell, and Fanflore.
Thomas de Granville, one fief and a half of the heritage of his wife Johanna in Burthon and Sutteford.	Heirs of Dominus Will de Bermyngham, one fief in Shutteford.
Rob. de Druis, two fiefs in Erdington.	Abbot of Eynesham, two fiefs in Erdington.
Peter Talemasch, half a fief in Swaleclive and Fanflore.	Will de York (de Eboraco), third part of a fief in le Lee.
Roger Lyons (de Leonibus), 4th part of a fief in Wavercourt.	John de Lyons, 4th part of a fief in Warkworth.
William de Anuers, half a fief in Swaleclive and Fanflore.	Robert Danuers, half a fief in Swaleclive and Fanflore. He is to do homage for this fief at Banbury.

In the earlier MS.—that of the year 1225—a list of the free tenants follows that of the feoffees, and in the hundred of Thame the first-mentioned is Roger, son of Lete, who holds three virgates of land in Thame, for which he pays 18s. yearly; he is also to carry the Bishop's letters (brevia) to Banbury, Bugedene (Bugden, the Bishop's seat in Hants), to Buleswade (in Bedford), and to Woburne. When required he is, with the Bishop's bailiff, to carry his lord's money, the first day at his own cost, and subsequently at the cost of the Bishop.

Another of these tenants is Robert Marescallus, who holds a hide of land in Westone, 'the gift of the Blessed Hugh' (St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln 1186-1200, canonized in 1220) at a yearly rent of a pound of pepper. The jurors say that Robert returned this land in open court to William de Bleis, Bishop of Lincoln (1202-1206), who then granted it to him for his life.

The free tenants are seven in number, holding 14½ virgates, and the sum of the rents is 73s. 2d.

Next follows a list of the burgesses. The 'burgages' of Thame are seventy-six in number, each paying twelvepence per annum.

Next follows a list of the villeins, or virgarii, as they are sometimes called. They are in Westone eleven in number, holding in all sixteen virgates at a total rental of £4.

Amongst these Claricia (probably Quatermain), widow, holds a virgate of land in Westone for five shillings rent to farm. Claricia owes one day in winter and one day in quadragesima to plough for the Lord Bishop. And to mow the meadow of the Bishop for three days till nine o'clock, and in the same manner to collect the hay (or fodder) for three days, and to carry the hay for one day and a half. Also to mow the Bishop's corn for three days with two men, who are to be fed by the Bishop, and to carry half a cartload of wood, or to pay one penny, also to find forage for two horses of the Bishop as often as he shall come there between the feast of St. Martin and Hockeday. And when it shall be necessary to go with a horse and sack with food for the Bishop to Oxford, Walingford, Wicumbe, Eilesbirie (Aylesbury). When the said woman is put to work, work is due from her through the whole year—namely, for one week on two days and for another week on three days—and, moreover, if necessary, she is to make an average on any Sunday. Also one day in winter and one day in quadragesima to plough for the Bishop as she would for herself, and to carry food for the Bishop as above, and to have her food if the Bishop shall come there. If any horses or cattle belonging to her are born she may not sell them without the consent of the Bishop's bailiff. Also she owes 'merchet, heriet, and leirwite,' and a fine for her land after her father's death, and aid to her lord when necessary, and he so wills. If she truly works as above she will be quit of the said rent.

The remainder of the villeins hold their virgates upon terms very similar to those of Claricia. The jurors go on to say that the above tenants ought, for each Sunday that shall come in autumn, to reap one perch (particata) of the Bishop's corn in the following week, but if he works on Sunday he is quit of reaping the said perch. Also, he is to carry timber, going one day and coming the other, to the Bishop's hall and grange.

In Thame, Peter the miller holds a virgate of land at a rent of eight shillings and four hens, and he is to carry a cart-load of wood, or pay twopence. He is also to pay for pannage (feed of swine on acorns, etc., in the woods) at the rate of a penny for each pig above a year old, and a halfpenny for one younger. He has also to mow, reap, carry, as in the case of Claricia, and he is also to make for the Bishop a quarter of malt, getting from his lord underwood or litter as fuel wherewith to dry the malt.

The tenures of the other tenants in Thame vary little, but they are apparently accommodated to each man's business. Thus, Henry faber (smith) has to find iron and prepare iron work for four carts.

At the end of the second list of the Queen's College MS. is added as follows :

'Forma homagii faciendi

Jes deueuk vostre home de vye et de membre et de terrien honur du tenement ke de vous tenk et fey et leaute vous porteroy sauf la foy nostre seingneur le Reys.

Postea faciat fidelitatem hoc modo.

Ke ies vous serroy feans et leans et leanment vous frey les servitur duives tenk issy me eyde deus et les seyntz.

Which may be translated thus :

'I become your man in life and limb and worldly honour for the tenement I hold of you. I will in return pay you fealty and loyalty, saving the faith due to our lord the king.

'I will be faithful and loyal to you, and will loyally do you the service I hold due, so help me God and the saints.'

Such were the words with which William Danvers did homage and swore fealty, first to Hugh Wallys, Bishop of Lincoln, and, on his death, to the great and learned Robert Grostête, who succeeded Hugh in the see.

To William Danvers, Robert Grostête was no doubt well-known, and not merely as his suzerain, since for some years before Grostête's promotion to the Bishopric he was a teacher of theology in the Franciscan school at Oxford, and by his learning and his eloquence drew crowds of students to the University. His learning, the country knight may scarcely have appreciated, but with Grostête were the Preaching Friars, who, in town and country, amongst high and low, rich and poor, superseded in their spiritual functions the parochial clergy of the day, and by their sanctity and the power of their preaching, produced results very wonderful amongst all classes of people.

In the year 1235, Grostête was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, and at once set himself to reform the abuses of the clergy, secular and monastic, of his diocese. He refused to institute foreigners or unfit persons to benefices—'rascal Romans' he would have none; and he drew upon himself the anger of the Pope by refusing to induct his nephew, a young Italian, to a canonry in Lincoln Cathedral: 'An awe was he to the Pope, a monitor to the King, a lover of truth, a corrector of prelates, a director of priests, an instructor of clergy, a maintainer of scholars, a preacher to the people, a diligent searcher after truth, and most exemplary in his life.'*

William Danvers died it would seem prior to the year 1246. His eldest son and heir was Robert, of whom more presently, but William appears to have had another son, Richard—the Richard Danvers who, in the 'Rotuli Hundredorum' of 1278, is one of the King's Commissioners for the Hundred of Thame, and, excepting Robert, had a property larger than other members of the family in Tetsworth. This, too, is doubtless the Richard Danvers† who appears in a friendly suit with his mother, Matilda, and with Richard Thalmasche, regarding land in Tetsworth, which was Matilda's dower, and was to revert to Richard Thalmasche. This Matilda was, we believe, sister to Richard Thalmasche and his brother Peter, and wife to William Danvers; so that if Peter Thalmasche and his brothers died childless, William's son, Robert Danvers, would become his heir; and we are told, in the list of tenants of the Bishop of Lincoln, of the year 1300, that Robert Danvers was heir to Peter Thalmasche.

That William Danvers was succeeded by his son Robert we have abundant evidence. Robert calls himself William's son in the charter,‡ a copy of which is appended to this chapter;

---

* Willis, 'Cathedrals,' vol. iii.

† Oxon fine 126 of 31 Henry III. and Assize Roll, No. 699, M. 24.

‡ In the above-mentioned charter of Robert, son of William Danvers, Robert confirms to the monks of Bruerne a hide of land in Swalecliffe,

and the signature of the first witness to the charter is that of Robert de Wicham, who was contemporary with Robert Danvers, as we learn from the Bishop of Lincoln's rolls and elsewhere, while Robert de Wicham's father, Ralph, was contemporary with William Danvers. Moreover, while the Roll of the Hundreds of 1278 mentions many members of the Danvers family, Robert's estates are far the largest, and

---

given to them by Randolph de Rumeli, and the connection between Robert and Randolph is explained by a charter which is preserved in the Record Office, which shows that this hide of land was given to Randolph de Rumeli by Robert Chevauchesul. It was, therefore, as heir of Robert Chevauchesul that Robert Danvers confirmed this grant. Another charter of the same series ('Ancient Miscellaneous Charters' (Aug.), Record Office, vol. v., No. 34, and vol. xiv., No. 8) is that of Will. de Rumeli, heir of Randolph de Rumeli, in which he gives land in Sualcliffe to the same abbey. Amongst the witnesses to both these charters are the names: Will. de Fifhide, Robert de Middleton, Rad. de Sibford, Roger de Berthon, Roger Golafre, witnesses whose names, together with the caligraphy of the charters, fix their date at the latter part of the reign of Henry III. or the beginning of that of Edward I. No. 157 in Eynsham Abbey Chartulary is one of Alex. de Rumeli, whose son John is buried in the Abbey Church. Amongst the witnesses are Robert Chevauchesul and William and Randolph de Rumeli. Matthew de Rumeli and Robert, son of Alan de Rumeli are mentioned in early charters of Bittlesden Priory.—Harl. MS., 4,714, f. 53.

Amongst the charters (Banbury) in muniment room at Lincoln is one given by Thomas of Abingdon to Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of Lincoln, while a Richard was Archdeacon of Oxford 1263-1273. Amongst the witnesses are Robert Danuers and Simon de Cropperi.

B. M. Additional Charter, No. 7,519, is a deed of gift by Gilbert de Walcote of Little Burton to Chacombe Priory. Witnesses, Thos. de Williamscote, Rob. Danuers, Simon de Cropperi, Walter de Prescote.

Record Office, Miscell. Charters, Augn., vol. v., No. 60, Rob., son of Osmond de Williamscote to Chaucombe. Rob. de Auners amongst the witnesses, vol. vi., No. 239. William de la Lee to Chaucombe. Rob. Dannuers and Simon de Cropperi amongst the witnesses. See also same series, vol. xix., No. 277; vol. xx., No. 128, and 140 and 251.

Record Office, 'Ancient Deeds,' vol. i., B. 840, charter of Rob. de Auners to Chaucombe Priory. Simon de Cropperi amongst witnesses.

Miscellaneous Charters, Aug., vol. xx., No. 145. Peter, son of Richard Thalemasche, gives land in Swaleclive to the monks of Bruern, land which Richard had from Robert Chevauchesul.

Other charters of the series in which members of the Cropredy or Danvers families appear are vol. vii., No. 53, of 29 Edward I.; vol. viii., No. 161; vol. ix., No. 134. In this Robt. de Auners is of Burton, also in same vol., No. 246; vol. xii., No. 138.

he is 'dominus de Tetteswurd.' In Fanflore, too, it is he who confirms to the Abbey of Eynsham the land which his grandfather Robert gave to the monks. He, too, was heir to Peter Thalmasche, which proves him to have been the eldest member then living of the family; and we find in other charters* Robert Danvers, in point of time, succeeding William. We may add that Vincent, in his pedigree of the family, asserts that Robert Danvers of Bourton was son and heir of William Danvers.

The earliest record† that we have of Robert Danvers is in the year 1272. Born about the year 1225, during his childhood began the six-and-twenty years of miserable government which followed upon the death of Langton and the fall, in the year 1232, of Hubert de Burgh, the great Justiciar. Robert was still a young man when the national party again obtained life and strength under the leadership of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and Robert Grostête, Bishop of Lincoln, and no doubt Robert Danvers, holding his fiefs of the Bishop of Lincoln, and connected by family ties with the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester, was found on the side of the patriotic party. Nor would Grostête's death in the year 1253 alter this, for Grostête's successor in the see was Richard de Gravesend, another of the great Churchmen who supported the national party under the leadership of the Earl of Leicester.

Yet, whatever may have been the political views and action of Robert in his early days, he was, doubtless, amongst those who in the year 1272 hailed with joy the accession of Prince Edward to the throne. The King was in the Holy Land when his father died, and did not return to England till the year 1274. On his return he speedily discovered that during the troubles of his father's reign great abuses had sprung up in the disposal of the Crown lands, and one of his first acts was to order the formation in every hundred of a commission which was to inquire into all rights of manors, warrens, fisheries, tolls, and markets, and into the conduct of the sheriffs and other Crown officers. After four years the Commissioners delivered their reports, and these were embodied in the 'Rotuli Hundredorum,' a record second only in extent and importance to that of Domesday record. Amongst the Commissioners in Banbury Hundred were Robert Danvers of Bourton, Robert de Wickham, Simon of Croppredi, Gilbert, son of the clerk of Burton, William de la Lee, Richard de la Lee, Lawrence of Herdwick, William of Morton, Nicholas Taillard of Charlbury, Richard Halthein, and William Algers. Richard Danvers, who, we believe, was Robert's younger brother, occupied a like position in Thame Hundred.

---

* Charters of Chaucombe Abbey, Record Office; Danvers Charters at British Museum; Eynesham Abbey Register, Banbury Charters, amongst Lincoln Cathedral muniments.

† Patent Roll of 1 Edward I., concerning lands in Little Bourton.

The Commissioners sent in their reports in the year 1278, and then followed the trials which were ordered to test the justice of the claims which had been asserted in the Roll of the Hundreds. 'Quo warranto?'—by what warrant hold you your lands?—was the demand made to many of the great nobles, and the reply of one was probably in effect that of others: 'This my sword is my title-deed. With it my ancestors won the land, and with my sword will I keep it.' And the politic Edward saw that it was not wise to press the claims of the Crown. But, apart from the question of its value at the time it was compiled, the Roll of the Hundreds is now of great service to those who are interested in the genealogy of the thirteenth century.

A few years later, and the King's love of justice and order again found work for Robert Danvers and his fellows under the 'Statute of Winchester,' in virtue of which Robert would become a 'Conservator of the Peace,' and as such would be employed in enforcing the provisions whereby the national police were restored, each district became responsible for crimes committed within its bounds, highways were secured against robbers, the duty of watch and ward in walled towns was enforced, and the gathering and arming of the local militia was regulated.

Robert Danvers cannot have married later than the year 1260, for at the time of the compilation of the Roll of the Hundreds he had, as we learn from the roll, a daughter, Petronilla, old enough to hold land of him in Swalecliffe.

He had, as we also learn from the roll, considerable landed property. First, there were the paternal estates in Bourton, a portion of which was held on the tenure of castle-guard—in time of war the possessor was to hold the Castle of Banbury for thirty days at his own cost (' Rotul. Hundred.'). In Swalecliffe Robert Danvers held one of the three manors into which the parish was divided, and it is curious that there were three ladies ' Petronilla ' in the village—Petronilla Danvers, Petronilla de La Lee, and Petronilla, with not quite so euphonious a surname, wife of Richard Spigurnel. Petronilla de La Lé, or Lee, was wife or daughter to the Sir William who was one of Robert's colleagues in the commission, and, as we learn elsewhere, Sir William's daughter married Robert de Wykham. We shall find that another of the family, granddaughter probably to Sir William, married the grandson of Robert Danvers.

Besides the two manors already mentioned, Robert held that of Eppewell, or Ipswell, a little to the north of Swalecliffe, while in South Oxon he had the manor of Tetsworth and land at Cheselhampton and Fanflore. But he himself appears to have lived at Bourton, the ancient seat of this branch of the family, while in Tetsworth the family was represented by Richard Danvers.

Little Bourton is about two miles north of Banbury, and is situated on the high ground which overlooks the valley of the Cherwell, and immediately opposite to it, on the slope which forms the Northamptonshire side of the valley, is the site of Chaucombe Priory, with the monks of which many generations of the Danvers family were kindly and intimately related. The present so-called manor-house of Little Bourton is situated at the east end of the hamlet, overlooking the valley beyond, and very probably it occupies the site of the manor-house of Robert Danvers, all traces of which have, however, quite disappeared. The hamlet has now no church, nor can we discover any record of one, excepting in the ancient rolls and volumes of the Bishops of Lincoln* and in the register of Eynsham Abbey. There, as early as the year 1263, we find the Abbey of Eynsham presenting to the church of 'Parva Bourton,' and there are many records in the institutions to the same effect subsequently. Charter 107 of Eynsham Abbey is the gift of the Church to the Abbey by Alexander de Bourton, with consent of his son William. On the first page of the chartulary is a list of the churches confirmed to the Abbey by St. Hugh of Lincoln, and amongst them is that of P^{va} Burton. Therefore, at one time a church must have existed in the hamlet, which was probably a more considerable place in ancient times than it now is.

---

* Vide p. 51.

One mile north of Little Bourton is Great Bourton, also overlooking the Cherwell Valley and commanding the road which descends to Cropredy Bridge and thence to the north through Daventry.

Robert Danvers was succeeded by his eldest son Simon, who, in his grandson's charter to Eynsham Abbey, is called 'son and heir of Robert,' and we find Simon at this period taking Robert's place. Thus in the Rolls of Parliament, A.D. 1316,* he is summoned to military service as one of the Lords of Bourton, Tetsworth, Swalecliffe, Ipswell, Wickham, Drayton, and Stodham; and in the same year, 1316,† he confirms to the canons of Chaucombe the rents of the lands and tenements which they held of him in Bourton. We have also the authority of Vincent for this succession, and he gives Simon's armorial bearings (but, unfortunately, not the tinctures)—four bendlets, in chief three escallops; and this, we may remark, is the shield which we find given to Simon's grandson Richard in a charter which will be mentioned presently.

We have several other authentic notices of Simon Danvers, as, for instance, on the last page of the register of Thame Abbey, where a list is given of the tenants holding lands in the Danvers and Thalmasche fiefs in Ippeswell and Tetsworth. In the Danvers fief, Simon Danvers is the principal tenant, and next to him Richard Danvers. Roger and Agnes Danvers have also holdings. In the Thalmasche fief, Simon Danvers, Roger Danvers, and the heirs of Richard Danvers hold land.

---

* 'Parliamentary Writs,' and 'Nomina Villarum,' in Harleian MSS., 4,081, 2,195, 6,281.

† 'Calendar of Ancient Deeds' (R.O.), vol. i., B. 724; and Record Office, 'Miscellaneous Charters,' Aug., vol. xiv., No. 21 (9 Edward II.), Simon Danvers of Little Bourton to Prior of Chaucombe; also vol. xvi., charter 149.

Then amongst the Oxford fines we find two in which Simon Danvers makes arrangements regarding his property.[*] In the thirteenth year of Edward II., Simon and his wife Alice settle an estate for life, in Parva Bourton, on a certain William Danvers junior, but it does not appear what relationship William bore to Simon. However, after the death of Simon and his wife, the ownership was to pass to Simon's son and heir John and his wife Elizabeth. In fine No. 22 of the following year (14 Edward II.), Simon gives lands to Geoffrey de Stokes and Alice his wife, with remainder to their son Geoffrey, while to William de Rufford and Isabel his wife an estate is also given. There can be little if any doubt that Alice and Isabel were Simon's daughters. Geoffrey de Stokes belonged probably to the Wicham family, old allies of the Danvers, one of whom, Robert de Wicham, the colleague of Robert Danvers, was also known as Robert de Stokes.[†] No small source of difficulty to genealogists is in the difference in the names which in these early times were given to the same person—thus in one deed Simon Danvers may be called Simon de Bourton, while in another he may be called Simon de Tetsworth.

The last authentic notice that we have of Simon Danvers is in the year 1327, when he appears in an Oxon Lay Subsidy Roll[‡] as of Parva Bourton, and he probably died within three or four years of that date. Simon lived through a memorable period of English history, for, born about the time that the first Edward came to the throne, he lived through his reign and that of his unhappy son, and died in the early part of the reign of Edward III.

---

[*] Fine is not numbered, but is the fifth in the book.

[†] Beesley's 'History of Banbury.'

[‡] Lay Subsidy Roll, Oxon., $\frac{161}{10}$, probably of 34 Edward III., Richard and Moncio (Montacute?) Danvers in Falkelor (Fanflore, Fawler). In same roll Rob. Danvers in Bourton Parv. and in Ippewell. Roll $\frac{161}{9}$, 1 Edward III., in Tetsworth Richard Danvers, in Bourton Parv. Simon Danvers. Oxon. Roll, $\frac{161}{46}$, 2 or 4 of Richard II., Robert and Rosa Danvers have small holdings in Bourton Parv.

We have already noticed that Simon Danvers is mentioned in the Rolls of the Parliament which sat at Lincoln in 1316; one which was summoned by the King for advice and assistance against the Scotch, who, since the defeat of the English at Bannockburn, had not ceased to ravage the Northern counties. Writs were made out ordering every village to furnish one stout footman, armed with sword and bow and arrows, sling and lance, while the King summoned all the military service due to him, and amongst others Simon Danvers and his neighbour and friend William de La Lee, 'lord of Shutford and La Lee.' In the following June they and their companions-in-arms were to muster at Berwick, and together these neighbours may have left for the North. That Simon had been knighted is not certain, but he was a gentleman entitled to wear coat-armour. His weapons would be spear and sword and dagger, while his defensive armour would be the hauberk of mail such as his ancestor wore at Senlac, but not at this period carried in the shape of a hood over the head. The fashion of the time was that it should reach only above the shoulders, while the neck was guarded by a curtain of mail which hung from the bascinet or helmet and fell down over the hauberk. To the hauberk also had been added greaves of steel as a protection to the legs, and brassarts for the arms, while the chest was further defended by steel plates.

With the knights would travel their own armed attendants, and with them the footmen whom their villagers had been called on to provide. Through Leicester they would take their way to York; the little band of men gathering strength as it went, by the accession of those who from all parts of the kingdom were converging upon the northern road. Strength in numbers they needed, for after passing York the party was always open to attack from bands of Scots, while a bad cause, weak leadership, half-hearted loyalty, and the remembrance of Bannockburn, had so demoralized the soldiery, that it was said a hundred Englishmen would flee on the approach of a half-dozen of their enemies. Certain it is, that not all the troops which Edward could raise, backed by Papal countenance and aid which he sought, were able to defend the northern counties from the inroads of the Scotch. Whether Simon Danvers was at the fall of Berwick, and was amongst the English knights who were there captured and held to ransom, we cannot say; yet the necessity for selling estates to pay a heavy ransom would explain the clearly marked difference between the poor estate of Simon's son and heir and that of his wealthy grandfather, Robert.

Simon Danvers was followed by his eldest son, John, who is mentioned in the fine of the year 1319, which has already been quoted. John was at the time married, and can therefore scarcely have been born later than about the year 1295. He succeeded to a very much reduced inheritance, owing in part to the provision which his father had made for his daughters, and in part, we suspect, to alienation by sale of some of his property. John Danvers was no longer John of Bourton, the title which his ancestors had borne since the period of the Conquest; he is now John of Eppewell, the manor which, together with land in Napton, his father gave to him on his marriage with Isabel de La Lee. Eppewell seems to have become the property of the family in the time of John's grandfather, Robert, and with the family it remained till, on the death of another Robert Danvers in the year 1467, it went to one of his heiresses.

In the fine which has just been mentioned, the name of John's wife is given as Elizabeth, but she is called Isabel in the charter which we shall quote immediately, and Vincent also states that her maiden name was Isabel de La Lee. There is, however, no real discrepancy here, for Elizabeth was the English equivalent of the Latin word Isabella. The fine is in Latin; the only English word in it is Elizabeth, which the clerk who wrote the fine used as a translation of Isabella. Wright, in his 'Court-hand Restored,' gives as the English of Isabella—Isabel, Elizabeth.

The charter just mentioned is preserved amongst the Rawlinson MSS. at the Bodleian Library (B. 283, p. 21). It is dated at Banbury, the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Gregory, in the . . . year of the reign of Edward III., but, unfortunately, the year has been omitted by the copyist. The charter is clearly a deed of settlement made at the time of the marriage of John Danvers and Isabel de La Lee, and may be translated as follows:

'Know all men that I, Simon Danuers, of bur . . .' (the 'ton' is obliterated) 'have given to John Danvers my son, and to Isabel, daughter of William de La Lee, his wife, all the lands and tenements which I have in the village and fields (villa et in campis) of Epewelle, in county Oxon, and in the village and fields of Napton, in county Warwick, to have and hold. Witnesses, John of Bloxham, Richard of Hawedene, Thomas of Sybford, Richard de Aula, Eppewell (*sic*), William Halthem of the same, Richard Gallyn of the same, Thomas Sandford of Banbury, John Astrop, Richard le perdoner de Brodicotte, et aliis.'

The name of John Danvers is found in two other well-authenticated documents. The first of these is a Parliamentary writ of 15 Edward II. (Parl. Writs, vol. ii., div. 2, p. 544), in which he is associated with his neighbour, Nicholas Trymonel, of Prestcote, in a matter of military service. The other document is a Lay Subsidy Roll, Oxon ($\frac{161}{29}$), of 22 Edward III. The roll in question gives the names of persons holding knights' fees in some of the hundreds of Oxfordshire, and consists of six membranes, all more or less injured by age and damp. No. 4 contains the list for the Hundred of Thame, and is, perhaps, in worse case than its companion membranes. On either side a large triangular patch of obliteration extends from the corners towards the centre, where the apices of the triangles very nearly meet, but in the interval appear the names of 'John Danvers of Ipswell,' and of Roger Danvers.*

---

* Roger Danvers was no doubt the Roger who appears in Tetsworth in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327. and the individual who, in the 'Inquis. Nonarum,' of 1340, appears as an inquisitor in the Thame Hundred. He is the last of the family of whom we find notice as living in Tetsworth, and as we shall not again have to refer to that ancient seat of the Danvers family, a list of the villagers who appear upon the roll may not be without interest. The demand was for a twentieth, and under it Roger Danvers and his fellow villagers paid as follows:

	s.	*d.*		*s.*	*d.*
John Andreu - - -	0	12	Richard le Walsch - -	0	22
Alicia Wattes - - -	2	0	John Gasor - - - -	2	0
Thom. Somer - - -	2	0	Matilda de Lounge - -	6	0

The family of de La Lee, to which John Danvers' wife belonged, derived their name from La Lee, a hamlet in the parish of Swalecliffe. We learn from the Roll of the Hundreds that Sir William de La Lee had land in the hamlet, and from the same source that the Vicar of the Mother Church was in the habit of celebrating Mass at a chapel in La Lee three times weekly. Sir William was on the commission with Robert Danvers. His wife's name was Agnes, and they were buried in the church of Chacombe Priory. Petronilla de La Lee is also mentioned in the roll as holding land in Swalecliffe, and Katherine de La Lee, of the same family, married Robert Wykham, of that village.

In the year 1316 William de La Lee is summoned as one of the lords of La Lee and Shutford, and in the year 1347 he appears in a lay subsidy roll (Oxon $\frac{161}{21}$) in Swalecliffe. This William appears to have been the son of William and Agnes, of the Roll of the Hundreds,* and was probably the father of Isabel, the wife of John Danvers.

At the time of the marriage of John Danvers, his wife's

	s.	*d.*		*s.*	*d.*
William Irlande - - -	0	18	Roger Asker - - -	0	20
Sarra Aldeys - - -	2	6	Emma Asker - - -	0	20
Robert Gunne - - -	1	2	William Wynd - - -	2	6
William Sowelle - - -	0	8	John Manicorn - - -	0	18
John de Lachefford - -	0	18	Matilda Andreu - - -	0	16
Alicia de Aldeburi - -	0	16	John de Barton - - -	4	0
Roger Danuers - - -	2	2	Edward Henr' - - -	4	6
Agnes Hardynge - - -	2	2	John Potinge - - -	4	0
John Wynde - - -	0	14	John Hameden - - -	2	0
John Juliane - - -	0	4	William Andreu - - -	0	14

---

* In the 34 Edward I. (1305), Oxon fine, No. 209, Will de La Lee and his wife Isabel sell land. Oxon fines of 36 and 42 Henry III., William de La Lee buys land in Shutford and in Banbury, and in 22 Edward I. Will de La Lee and his wife Agnes buy land in Banbury. Amongst the ancient charters, vol. xviii., No. 255, charter of Nich. de La Lee to monks of Bordesley, and again Aug. No. 245, vol. x., Peter, son of Nicholas de La Lee gives land in La Lee to Bruerne Abbey; and amongst the charters in the Thame Abbey register is one of Geoffrey de La Lee giving land to that abbey.

In Burke's 'Armory' and in Dodsworth MSS., No. 5, p. 111, the arms of de La Lee are: or, a fess embattled between six martletts gu., three and three.

family were living at Swalecliffe and the neighbouring village of Shutford, and doubtless the marriage was celebrated at one or the other place. Both villages are near to Ipswell, which was to be the future home of the married couple, and was for many generations to designate their descendants.

Ipswell lies in a hilly district, about seven miles to the north-west of Banbury. The road to the village, passing through Shutford, with its Norman church and picturesque manor-house, now rising, now falling, gradually mounts to where Ipswell Church, at an elevation of five hundred and eighty feet, stands at the highest point of the village. The village may be described as 'many hilled,' so irregular is its surface; to the north-east of it are Ipswell and other hills rising to a height of about seven hundred feet, and to the west of the village is another elevated ridge.

To the east of the church is the village green, and to the east of this again is the manor-house. Below and on the north side of the church is the village well, or spring, rising from beneath the edge of a huge flat boulder. The spring is a copious one, and its water, as the villagers aver, excellent. From it, no doubt, the village takes its name, 'Eppan-Wyllë,' the well of a Saxon named Eppa, becoming Eppëwelle, and then Epswell* or Ipswell.

The church, dedicated to St. Anne, is a chapel under Swalecliffe, and was probably built about the same time as the chancel of the Mother Church. It consists of chancel, nave, a tower on south side of the nave, and a small south aisle opening into the nave, which was probably once the possession of the lord of the manor. The chancel has its old timbered roof, coeval with the church, and an east window of three lights and an early Decorated piscina. On either side the east window are brackets for the images of saints, and on the north side the window is a niche for the same purpose.

The present manor-house is of the period of Elizabeth or James I., but we think includes portions of an older house, and its position and arrangement, and the known plan of country houses of the time of Edward III., enables one to venture on a description of the dwelling of John Danvers.

---

* From the substitution of the strong genitive *es* for the weak *am*. So Mr. W. H. Stevenson, to whom we are indebted for the etymologies of Epswell and Tetsworth.

The buildings of the house and offices formed a square, the north side of which was occupied by the stables, while the west side of the quadrangle was formed by the hall, from the end of which a wing ran eastwards, forming the south side of the quadrangle, which was completed on the west by a moated hedge or wall. To the south of the building were, as now, the garden and orchard, while a road separated the house from the village green. The hall was probably provided with a vaulted lower story, and the entrance to the hall and to the upper rooms of the south wing would be by means of a flight of steps in the south-west angle of the court. Opening into the hall at its south end would be the kitchen and buttery, while the remainder of the wing was occupied by the private rooms of the family.

The hall would be provided with a fireplace and chimney, and with a daïs, on which would be a table dormant (fixed) for the family and guests of good degree, while the table for the inferiors would be simply of boards resting upon trestles, which could be removed at night, when the rush-strewn floor formed the sleeping-place for the servants and chance guests. The windows were deeply splayed, with seats on either side, and were closed by shutters.

In the sleeping chambers of the family the furniture of the period was still of a very rude kind, a bedstead, curtained at the head, on which was laid a bed of flocks or feathers, with bolster and pillows of the same, with linen sheets, and thick coverlets of wool or fur. Over all was placed the counterpointe, or counterpane, often of rich stuff, and the pride of the lady of the house. Then the lady's room would have fireplace and chimney, and a bench with arms and back, and besides this, one or more chests for clothing and valuables. The windows would be glazed and curtained, and the walls hung with tapestry. Apparently, the most completely furnished room in a house of the sort was the kitchen, and a contemporary writer* gives us a list of the articles it should contain—a table for mincing herbs and vegetables, pots, tripods, pot-stick, and pot-hook, pestle and mortar, caldron, frying-pan, gridiron, posnet or saucepan, a dish, a platter, a saucepan, hand-mill and pepper-mill, and a mier, which seems to have been used for crumbling bread.

---

* Alexander Neckam.

The family rose at daybreak, or shortly after, but the serious business of the day did not commence till after dinner, which was served in the forenoon. Having first washed their hands, the members of the family sat down to dinner in pairs, to a table covered with a cloth and laid with salt-cellars, drinking-cups and spoons. The guests used their own knives when the fingers needed aid. There were no plates, but each couple was provided with a 'tranchoir,' a thick slice of bread, on which the meat was placed, and on which, if needful, it was cut with the knife held in one hand, while the other hand served as fork. The food was abundant and varied, soup or a potage forming the first course, to which followed the meats, beef and mutton and pork, and following these, lighter dishes, such as rabbit and game, and lastly puddings and pastry of various sorts. Beer was the usual beverage at the meal, but after dinner, when the family and guests had again washed their hands, wine was served. After dinner the household dispersed to their occupations—the master to his farm, or his justice-hall, or to hunt, or hawk or play bowls—while the ladies gossiped and spun, or played chess or tables, or amused themselves with minstrel or juggler. There seems to have been no lack of business or amusement till supper, which was served when the day began to draw in, and was a meal very much of the same nature as the dinner, but of a lighter sort. After supper the whole household went early to bed, for the lights of the period were poor and expensive, and the houses were but ill-fitted to keep out the evening cold.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER III.

FEET OF FINES, OXON., 31 HEN. III., No. 126.

HEC est finalis concordia facta in Curia domini Regis apud Oxon' a die Sancte Trinitatis in tres septimañ Anno regni Regis Henr' filii Regis Johannis Tricesimo primo. Coram Rog'o de Thurkelby, Gilberto de Preston, Magistro Simone de Wanton et Johanne de Cobbeham, Justic' Itinerant' et aliis d'ni Regis fidelibz tunc' ibi presentibz Inter Ricardum Talemache petentem et Ricardum de Anuers tenentem de dualz partibz unius virgate terre cum pertinenciis In Tettesworth. Et inter eundem Ricardum Talemache petentem et predictum Ricardum de Anuers quem Matill' de Anuers Mater predicti Ricardi de Anuers vocavit ad Warrentiam et qui ei warrantavit de tercia parte unius virgate terre cum pertinenciis in eadem villa. Et unde recognitio magne assise summonita fuit inter eos in eadem Curia. Scilicet quod predictus Ricardus Talemache recognovit totam predictam terram cum pertinenciis esse ius ipsius Ricardi de Anuers. Et pro hac recognitione fine et concordia predictus Ricardus de Anuers concessit predicto Ricardo Talemache medietatem predictarum duarum parcium cum pertinenciis quam exigebat versus eum. Habend' et tenend' eidem Ricardo Talemache et heredibus suis de predicto Ricardo de Anuers et heredibus suis imperpetuum. Reddendo inde per annum dimidiam libram peperis. Et faciendo inde forinsecum servic' quod ad predictam medietatem que ei per istum finem remanet pertinet pro omni servicio et exaccione. Et preterea predictus Ricardus de Anuers concessit pro se et heredibus suis quod medietas predicte tercie partis cum pertinenciis quam Matill' de Anuers tenuit in dotem in eadem villa die quo hec concordia facta fuit de hereditate ejus de Ricardo de Anuers post decessum ipsius Matill' remaneat predicto Ricardo Talemache et heredibus suis tenenda simul cum predicta medietate predictarum duarum partium cum pertinenciis sicut predictum est de predicto Ricardo de Anuers et heredibus suis per predicta servicia imperpetuum.

ASSIZE ROLL, NO. 699, MEMBRANE 24.

Ric' Talemasch petit versus Ric' de Auvers quem Joh' de Auvers voc' ad Warentiam et qui ei war' duas partes unius virgate terre cum ꝑertiñ in Tettewurth. Et versus eundem Ric' quem Matiłł de Auvers voc' ad Warentiam et qui ei war' terciam partem unius virgate terre cum ꝑertiñ in eadem villa ut Jus suum etc' et unde quidem Hug' pater suus fuit seisitus in dominico suo ut de feodo et Jure tempore domini Regis qui nunc est, capiens in espletia ad valenc' dimid' marc'. Et de ipso Hug' descendit jus predicte terre isti Ric' qui nunc petit ut fil' et heredi. Et quod tale sit jus suum offert etc'.

Et Ric' veñ et defendit Jus predicti Ric' Talemasch et seisinam predicti Hug' et totū etc'. Et ponit se in magnam assisam domini Regis et petit retornati fieri utrum ipse majus Jus habet in predicta terra an predictus Ric' Talemasch et predictus Ric' de Auvers similiter. Et Bard' de Cestreton, Gilb's de Hida, Wido fil' Rob' et Regiñ le forester quatuor milites sum̃ ad eligend' xii ad retornand' in forma predicta veñ et eligerunt istos, scilicet Roald fil' Alañ Rob' Bª. . . . Reginald de Albo monasterio, Rog' de Harpedeñ, Wiłł de Englefeld, Galfr' de Chanfy, Rob' de Mapeldureham, Wiłł Quatremains, Andr' le Blind, Wiłł le Moyne, Wiłł de Stalebroke, Rog' Gernun, Thom̃ de Valoynes, Wiłł de Paris, Gilb' de Brascy, Rog' del Amary.

j. marc'.

Postea Concord' sunt et Ric's de Auvers dat j. marc' pro licencia Concord' ꝑ plegium predicti Ric'i Talemasche et hunc Cyrographum.

CHARTERS XXIV. AND CLXXXXII.—EYNSHAM ABBEY CHARTULARY.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum peruenerit Robertus de Auuers salutem. Nouerit vniuersitas uestra me de assensu heredum meorum dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse pro salute mea et omnium antecessorum & heredum meorum Deo & Beate Marie de Egnesham̃ & monachis ibidem Deo seruientibus in puram & perpetuam elemosinam totam terram que de feudo Roberti le cheualchesul iure hereditario ad me descendere poterat. In uilla de fanflore scilicet medietatem totius tenementi quod idem Robertus habuit in eadem uilla. In bosco, in plano, in pratis, in pascuis, in aquis, in uiis, in semitis, in introitibus & exitibus, in omnibus libertatibus & liberis consuetudinibus intra uillam & extra. Tenendam & habendam libere & quiete sine omni seruicio seculari, saluo seruicio Domini Regis. Salua Nicholao filio meo & heredibus suis tertia parte Dominici mei in predicta uilla quam ei concessi tenendam ab eisdem monachis. Reddendo eis annuatim quatuor solidos pro omni seruicio Saluo seruicio Domini Regis, videlicet ad festum sancti Michaelis duos solidos & ad Natale Domini duos solidos. Salua etiam Radulfo filio meo & heredibus suis dimidia uirgata terre in eadem uilla quam ei concessi tenendam a predictis monachis. Reddendo eisdem annuatim vnum par calcarium uel tres obolos ad pascha pro omni seruicio saluo seruicio Domini Regis. Pro hac autem donatione concessione & confirmatione dederunt mihi predicti monachi decem marcas argenti. Et tam ego quam heredes mei predictam terram predictis monachis warantizabimus contra omnes homines. Quod si facere non potuerimus eis competetis eschambium in aliis tenementis nostris faciemus. Et hoc fideliter obseruandum tam ego quam Willelmus filius vel heres meus pro nobis & heredibus nostris affidauimus. Quod ut Ratum sit & firmum presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Petro thalemasche, Hugone le Pouer, Willelmo Blundo, Gileberto Tailard, Willelmo filio Baldewini, Ricardo Tailard, Johanne Janitore Auenello, Roberto de Sidem̃, Thoma de Bertoñ, Ricardo Pułł clericis, Willelmo Russel. Et multis aliis.

CLXXXXIII. & 202.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum peruenerit Willelmus de Auuers salutem in Domino. Nouerit vniuersitas uestra me concessisse & presenti carta confirmasse pro salute anime mee & omnium antecessorum & heredum meorum deo & sancte Marie de Egnesham & monachis ibidem deo seruientibus in puram & perpetuam Elemosinam totam terram que de feodo Roberti de Cheualchesul ad Robertum quondam patrem meum iure hereditario descendere poterat in uilla de fauflore scilicet medietatem totius tenementi quod idem Robertus le cheualchesul habuit in eadem uilla, in Bosco, in plano, in pratis & pascuis, in aquis, in uiis, in semitis, in introitibus and exitibus, in omnibus libertatibus & liberis consuetudinibus intra uillam & extra. Tenendam and habendam libere & quiete ab omni demanda & seruicio seculari. Salua Nicholao fratri meo & heredibus suis tertia parte Dominici in predicta uilla quam pater meus ei dederat & concesserat tenendam de eisdem monachis pro quatuor annuis solidis pro omni seruicio saluo seruicio Domini Regis. Salua etiam Radulfo fratri meo & heredibus suis dimidia uirgata terre in eadem uilla quam pater meus ei concessit tenendam de predictis monachis. Reddendo eis annuatim vnum par calcarium uel tres obolos. Et sciendum quod predictus Nicholaus frater meus concessit & dedit predictis monachis post decessum patris mei in puram & perpetuam elemosinam sex denarios annuos ad incrementum superius memorati redditus sui vnde soluet eis decetero imperpetuum ipse & heredes sui quatuor solidos & sex denarios ad duos terminos scilicet duos solidos & tres denarios ad festum sancti Michaelis & duos solidos & tres denarios ad pascha. Sciendum quoque quod predictus Radulfus frater meus habuit in eadem uilla de fanflore alteram dimidiam uirgatam terre ex dono me vnde mihi soluere tenebatur duodecim denarios annuatim pro omni seruicio saluo seruicio Domini Regis. Et ego totum seruitium & homagium eiusdem Radulfi & heredum eius dedi & concessi abbati & monachis de Egnesham saluo seruicio Domini Regis, vnde idem Radulfus & heredes sui soluent imperpetuum monachis memoratis sex denarios ad festum sancti Michaelis & sex denarios & vnum par calcarium uel tres obolos ad pascha pro omni seruicio saluo seruicio Domini Regis. Pro hac autem Donacione concessione & confirmacione dederunt mihi predicti monachi tres marcas argenti. Et tam ego quam heredes mei predictam terram cum omnibus supra memoratis predictis monachis warantizabimus contra omnes homines & feminas. Quod si facere non potuerimus eis competetis eschambium in aliis tenementis nostris faciemus. Et hoc fideliter obseruandum ego Willelmus pro me & pro heredibus meis affidaui. Quod ut ratum sit & firmum presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Willelmo Blundo, Willelmo fratre Domini Abbatis, Waltero capellano de Egnesham, Nicholao de Anuers, Petro de Walcot', Humfrido Duket, Petro de Haywod, Henrico de Lechtoñ. Et multis aliis.

CLXXXIIII.

Hec est finalis concordia facta in Curia Domini Regis apud Westmonasterium in Octaba sancte trinitalis anno Regni Regis Henrici filii Regis Johannis nono. Coram Martino de Paterhiƚƚ, Thoma de Mulaitoñ, Thoma de Heydeñ, Roberto de Lexintoñ, Galfrido le Sauuag' & aliis Domini Regis fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus. Inter Adam Abbatem de Egnesham petentem per fratrem Willelmum de Mora monachum suum ponit loco suo ad lucrandum uel perdendum et Henricum de Keneswrth & Saram uxorem eius tenentes per eundem Henricum ponit loco ipsius Sarre ad lucrandum uel perdendum de Dimidia Hyda terre cum pertinentiis in fanflore vnde placitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia. Scilicet quod predicti Henricus et Sarra recognouerunt predictam terram cum pertinentiis esse jus ipsius abbatis & illam remiserunt & quietam clamauerunt de se ipsi abbati & successoribus & Ecclesie sue de Egnesham imperpetuum. Et pro hac recognitione remissione quieta clamantia fine & concordia predictus abbas dedit predictis Henrico & Sarre nouemdecim marcas argenti. Et hec concordia prefecta fuit presente Willelmo de Anuers fratre & herede Galfridi de Anuers quondam uiri ipsius Sarre qui recognouit predictam terram esse jus ipsius abbatis & Ecclesie sue de Egnesham vt illam quam idem abbas & Ecclesia sua habent ex dono Roberti de Anuers patris ipsius Willelmi qui predictam terram post dederat predicte Sarre in dotem cuius warantus idem Willelmus est.

In the margin:
Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Galfridus de Anuers dedi & concessi & hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Sare vxori mee totam terram illam que eschata fuit Roberto de Anuers patri meo in hereditate de Roberto cheuachesul scilicet vnum feodum militis & dimidium & quam predictus Robertus de Anuers pater meus dedit mihi ad dotandam predictam Saram tenendam omnibus vite sue in liberam dotem. Ego Galfridus & heredes mei warentizabimus totam predictam terram predicte Sare. Hiis testibus Roberto de Piscle, Roberto filio Amauri, Hugone de Bereford, Rogero de Bereford, Roberto Wandard, Allano de Fulewelle, Roberto de Bodenden & multis aliis.

Confirmacio Ricardi de Anuers de terris in fanlore in quo relaxantur omnia seruicia secularia.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes litere peruenerint Ricardus de Anuers de Ippewell filius & heres Johannis filii & heredis Simonis filii & heredis Roberti de Anuers salutem in domino. Cum Galfridus, abbas de Eynesham, teneat in Fanlore omnia terras & tenementa sua ibidem de me & heredibus meis preter certa terras & tenementa in eadem villa que ipse tenet de Thoma Wychame de Swalclyue Noueritis me statum predicti abbatis quem ipse habet in omnibus & singulis terris & tenementa infra villam predictam de Fanlore ratificasse & confirmasse eidem abbati & successoribus suis imperpetuum tenendum de me & heredibus meis omnia & singula terras & tenementa que ipse tenet de me infra villam predictam sibi & successoribus suis imperpetuum in liberam puram & perpetuam elemosinam quiete ab omnibus seruiciis secularibus & consuetudinibus. Et ego predictus Ricardus & heredes mei eidem abbati & successoribus suis omnia predicta terras & tenementa que idem abbas habet in villa predicta warantizabimus erga me & heredes meos tam ita quod nullo modo versus alios teneamur warantizare et etiam ego predictus Ricardus & heredes mei acquietabimus predictum abbatem & successores suos erga dominum Episcopum Lincolniensem & alios capitales dominos quoscunque de quibuscunque seruiciis que illa terras seu tenementa concernunt que idem abbas de me tenet in villa predicta. In cuius rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Thoma ffretewelle, Johanne Carswelle seniore, Henrico Sauage armigero predicti abbatis, Ricardo Ouerton, & multis aliis. Date decimo die Octobris anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie nono.

Rawl. MS., Bodleian, B. 283 (*folio* 20*b*).

Omnibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Robertus filius Willelmi de Anuers salutem in Domino. Sciatis me concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Deo et ecclesie beate Marie et monachis de Brueria in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam vnam hidam terre in villa et territorio de Sualcliue cum mesuagio et omnibus aliis aisiamentis libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus in pratis pasturis viis et semitis et cum omnibus pertinentiis, illam videlicet hidam terre quam Randulphus de Rumcli eis dedit et carta sua confirmauit. Hanc igitur prefatam hidam terre cum omnibus pertinentiis suis volo quod predicti monachi habeant et teneant de me et heredibus meis in perpetuum bene et in pace libere et quiete ab omnibus sectis curiarum hundredorum hawehundredorum et shirorum et ab omnibus seruiciis consuetudinibus homagiis feuditatibus et demandis secularibus. Reddendo annuatim mihi et heredibus meis duos denarios ad Natale domini et alteri domino feudi duos denarios ad eundem terminum et solum scutagium quando currit quantum pertinet ad tantum tenementum in eadem villa. Ita quod nec ego nec heredes mei de cetero aliquod auxilium exigere potuimus de dictis monachis vel eorum successoribus ad faciendum filium militem vel filiam maritandam nec aliquid aliud aliquo modo contingens excepto solo scutagio sicut predictum est. Et ego et heredes mei warantizabimus adquietabimus et defendemus omnia predicta cum omnibus pertinentiis suis predictis monachis et eorum successoribus inperpetuum contra omnes gentes. Et vt hoc sic firmum et stabile inperpetuum presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Johanne filio Guidonis de Wikinton, Roberto de Wicham, Waltero persona de Swalecliue, Stephano de Dunthorne, Roberto de Sibbeford, Ricardo Withsend, Johanne Kachelewe, et multis aliis.

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1347—1450.

Our history has brought us to the year 1347, when the name of John Danvers of Ipswell appears in a Lay Subsidy Roll amongst those who might be called on to pay an aid which had been demanded by the King. The roll concerns six hundreds in the south of Oxfordshire, one of them being that of Thame. Unfortunately, the rolls of the northern hundreds are wanting, excepting a fragment of that of Banbury Hundred—a small parchment slip (L.S.R., Oxon., $\frac{161}{21}$), and in such bad condition that only three or four of the names entered in it can be deciphered. Amongst them is that of William de La Legh, of Swalecliffe and Shutford, father-in-law, we believe, of John Danvers.

The great charter allowed three occasions on which the King might lawfully demand an aid of his subjects, and one of these was the knighting of his eldest son.

In July of the year 1346, the King, Edward III., with the army which he had collected, landed at La Hogue in Normandy, intending to march through France into Flanders, where he would be joined by his Flemish allies; but, defeated by the strategy of the French King, he was obliged to retreat northwards, and at length, as the only means of saving his army from an ignominious surrender, on August 25, fought and won against fearful odds the battle of Cressy. Thence the King with his victorious army marched to undertake the siege of Calais, and in the siege he was still engaged when, in March, 1347, Parliament was sitting at Westminster. There messengers arrived from the Earl of Northampton and others who were with the King bringing information that on landing at La Hogue the King had knighted his eldest son, the Black Prince, and ought to have an aid of the realm, forty shillings of every knight's fief. To this the Parliament heartily assented, and took order for the speedy levying of the aid, and thus it came about that in an old roll of the period we find recorded the names of John and Roger Danvers.*

After the fall of Calais the King returned in triumph to England; for not only in the north, but in the south of France also, his armies were victorious, while in the north of England the victory of Neville's Cross had broken the power of Scotland, and David, the King, was Edward's prisoner. England was full of joy and exultation; the King at home and abroad was honoured, and the people were prosperous. 'It seemed,' writes the old chronicler Walsingham, 'as if a new sun had arisen on account of the abundance of peace, and the plenty of glories of victories.' But all this joy and prosperity were shortly turned to gloom and misery, for in August, 1348, broke out in England that fearful pestilence known as 'the Black Death,' which, spreading westwards from China, had desolated the countries through which it had passed, including Germany, Italy, and France. From Dorsetshire, where it first appeared in England, the pestilence rapidly spread by way of Gloucester and Oxford to London, in which city it is said to have slain a hundred thousand people. On its way the plague ravaged towns and villages, stripping some of them of their inhabitants, and slaying, as has been calculated, from one-third to one-half of the population of England. The records of the period show that the religious houses were terribly afflicted, many of them losing nine-tenths of their inmates. So fierce was the plague that its victims died within a few hours of their seizure, so contagious that in terror their nearest relatives fled on its approach.

Clergy and laity were alike demoralized by the visitation, and in the religious houses a permanent decline in discipline and in learning was its consequence, while it was very long before the places of the parochial clergy who perished could be supplied by men of the same stamp and fitness as those who had preceded them. Amongst the laity, also, the consequences of the pestilence, both to landowners and to the labourers and artisans, were very pronounced. It is said that about one-half the number of the available labourers perished, and the landholders were therefore obliged to pay higher wages in order to secure the help which they needed for the cultivation of their land. So it came about that agricultural wages rose fifty per cent., a rise which was a permanent one. But though the cost of labour rose, that of the simple food which the labourer consumed was almost unchanged. He therefore flourished, and enjoyed no small amelioration of his former condition.

---

* Lay Subsidy, Oxon ($\frac{161}{26}$), 12 Edward III. Six inquisitions, showing names of persons holding knights' fees and other possessions in Wootton, Thame, and other four hundreds.

As to the landholders,* and those of them more especially whose estates were small, they suffered not merely from the rise in the cost of wages, but also from the increased cost of all agricultural implements, the production of which needed labour of a skilled sort. Moreover, the tenants could no longer pay the old rents, and much of the land went out of cultivation, or lapsed to the over-lord, owing to the inability of the smaller gentry to pay the heriots and fees which they owed.

It is clear that the Danvers family at this period suffered very great losses, both in numbers and in their possessions. John Danvers of Ipswell, his son Richard, and their cousin Roger of Tetsworth appear to have been the only members of the family who escaped the pestilence, and all that remained to them of the large landed property of Robert Danvers of Bourton was the manor of Ipswell, a small holding in Tetsworth, and land in Fanflore which was only nominally theirs.

John Danvers and his wife Isabel no doubt lived and died on their manor of Ipswell, but the date of their deaths we do not know, nor do we know certainly that they had more than one son, the Richard who succeeded his father at Ipswell. Vincent evidently had reason to think that there was a second son, John, who became 'the ancestor to the Dalverses of Sweetland, which lordship they had by marridge of the heire

* Cf. H. de B. Gibbin's 'Industrial History of England,' p. 72.

of Waleys. And the same John had issue John.'* But Vincent, in the pedigree, connects this John by a dotted line with John of Ipswell, thus showing that the evidence of the descent which he possessed was not conclusive. However, he raises no doubt as regards Richard of Ipswell, son of John of Ipswell, and he records his match with the daughter of John de Brancestre, and figures their shield the three bars and three scallop-shells in chief of Danvers, impaling the three martlets on a bend of Brancestre.

'Richard Danvers of Ipswell,' the son of John Danvers, is uniformly so called by the genealogists of the family. 'Richard of Ispwell' he is called in two ancient deeds dated respectively A.D. 1388 and 1390, now in possession of Magdalen College, Oxford ('Clifton and Deddington,' 35 and 20), in which he is interested in land in Ipswell, the inheritance of Agnes, daughter of William Althyn.† 'Richard of Ipswell,' too, Richard Danvers styles himself in the charter which he gives to Eynsham Abbey, and in which he states his descent from his great-grandfather, Robert Danvers.

But though brought up at Ipswell, Richard Danvers early in his life became associated by his marriage with the town of Banbury. His wife was Agnes, daughter and heiress of Sir John Brancestre, who, judging from the payments entered in a Lay Subsidy Roll of the period, was, after the Bishop of Lincoln, who was lord of the castle, the principal inhabitant of the town. Colthorpe manor house, situated in what was then a suburb of Banbury, was Sir John's dwelling-place; there Richard Danvers succeeded him, and there many generations of the family dwelt. 'Danvers of Ipswell' became also 'Danvers of Colthorpe,' while Richard and his descendants for many generations substituted the Brancestre for the Danvers arms upon their shield. This, therefore, seems an appropriate place to digress for a little in order to give a few pages to a notice of the town of Banbury and the family of Brancestre.

---

* Vincent MS. 51, p. 34, Heralds' College.

† No doubt the William Althyn, or Halthem, of Epwell—the name is variously spelt—who was one of the witnesses to the charter by which John of Ipswell received the manor of that place.

The general plan of the town appears to have been the same in the fourteenth century as at present. Then, as now, a bridge across the valley of the Cherwell carried the road from Northampton into Oxfordshire, but the many-arched thirteenth-century bridge has, with other buildings of the period, long since disappeared. Near the bridge head, on slightly rising ground, stood the Norman castle, erected by Bishop Alexander in the year 1125, and at the time of which we are writing one of the principal houses of the Bishops of Lincoln. The castle was demolished by order of Parliament in the year 1648, and its site is now marked by Castle Wharf and Castle Street, but of the fabric all that remains is three or four square feet of masonry, built into the wall of a cottage, and here and there in its neighbourhood a raised bank which probably once formed the border of the castle moat.

From the bridge the main street of the town took a westerly direction to the Cross, which was destroyed by the Puritans in the year 1602, but has now been rebuilt. In Leland's time, and probably long anterior to it, a 'very celebrate markett' was held every Thursday in the area around the Cross, and 'a purle of fresh water' ran through the area, but the 'purle' is no longer above ground, and a cattle market only is held there. Beyond the cross the road ran on in a westerly direction to Broughton, Swalecliffe, and Ipswell, while a cross road ran, as now, north and south, leading, in the former direction to Drayton, Horley, Bourton and Cropredy, and in the latter, through Adderbury and Deddington to Oxford—all places connected with the history of the Danvers family. Near the Cross on the eastern side of the northern road stood Banbury old church, while on the eastern side of the southern road was Colthorpe, then a detached hamlet, with the manor house and its pleasaunce separating it from Banbury.

The old church of St. Mary, Banbury, was built about the year 1140 by Bishop Alexander, of Lincoln, whose church and castle neighboured and faced one another across an intervening stretch of low ground. The church was, in the main, of the Norman and Early English styles, but aisles, transepts, and chapels were added during the Decorated and Perpendicular periods. Leland, Grose, and others who saw the church in its glory, describe it as a magnificent structure, of truly cathedral proportions and appearance, ornamented within with chantries, tombs, sculptures, and painted glass windows, beautiful in themselves and interesting as records of the worthies of the town and neighbourhood. It was a church which, were it now standing, would in itself make Banbury famous,* and 'never was a more wanton and barbarous act perpetrated than the destruction of the old church of Banbury, nor one more entirely without excuse. The Cross was destroyed by ignorant fanatics who were, to say the least, honest and disinterested; but for the destruction of the church there was no excuse, and in the year 1790, under the notoriously false pretext that it was in a dilapidated state, this splendid structure was pulled down,' its piers and walls were blown to pieces with gunpowder, and every monument within its walls was ruthlessly destroyed.

Lee† in 1574, and Sir William Dugdale in 1640, copied the arms in the church, and their notes are preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Amongst the arms were those of Danvers (Brancestre) and Bruly: ermine on a bend gules three martlets vert, quartering ermine on a bend gules three chevrons or.

Another, though comparatively modern, record of the Danvers family‡ in Anthony Wood's time, was on the north side of the chancel, where was a gravestone with the inscription:

> 'Here lyeth the body of Captayn William Danvers, second son of Sir John Danvers of Culworth, who dyed in the service of God and the King, and was buried the 25th day of September, anno Domini 1643.

The organ, the bells and the registers of the old church were preserved, and the bells are in the present church; the oldest of them bears the inscription:

> 'Bee it knowne to all that doe me see Bagley of Chacombe made mee 1664.'

---

* Cf. Beesley's 'Banbury,' p. 148, *et seq.*, for a full description of the old church.

† Wood's MS., D. 14, No. 8,548, and Dugdale MS., F. 1, No. 6,501, fol. 152*a*, and Rawlinson, MS. B., 400 B.

‡ Rawlinson, MS. B., 400 B.

Another ecclesiastical building of ancient Banbury was the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, which gave the name to St. John's Street, now South Bar Street. The hospital stood without the bar on an eminence on its eastern side. After the dissolution the shell of the fabric was long used as a barn, and according to Skelton,* formed part of the premises of Colthorpe manor house. The building was purchased from Sir Henry Dashwood, who then owned Colthorpe House, by T. Cobb, Esq., who resold it in 1834, when the barn was converted into a dwelling-house. Beesley mentions† that the present walls of the building, with the exception of the eastern one, and also the present roof, appear to be ancient, and to have been left unmolested since the time of the dissolution, and he figures a small brass crucifix which was found on the site.

On the eastern side of Banbury Bridge was another religious house, the Hospital of St. Leonard, for lepers. The building has disappeared, but its site is still known as 'The Spital.'

The town itself was but a small one, of less than a thousand inhabitants; it now contains nothing older than a few houses possibly of the time of Queen Elizabeth, excepting, perhaps, parts of Colthorpe House. There was no manor house in Banbury itself, for the Bishops of Lincoln were the lords of the manor, and occasionally occupied the castle.

In the Lay Subsidy Roll ($\frac{161}{46}$) of the 2nd or 4th Richard II., John Brancester, armiger, heads the list of payments. This was the John Brancester whose daughter and heiress Richard Danvers married, and regarding whom Beesley writes:‡ 'For some generations Colthorpe was the residence of the family of Danvers. Richard Danvers, styled of Colthorpe, married the heiress of John Brancester, of Colthorpe, and is said to have been descended from Roland D'Anvers, of the time of William the Conqueror; he had a son, John Danvers, styled of Banbury and Colthorpe, who lived in the reigns of Henry the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth." Richard Danvers§ assumed the Brancestre coat-of-arms, ermine on a bend gules three martlets or winged vert, which his descendants still bear quartered with those of Danvers.

---

* 'Antiquities of Oxfordshire.'

† 'History of Banbury,' p. 78.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 188.

§ Vincent's MS., vol. li. in College of Arms; his Collections, vol. x., p. 81; and Visitation of Oxon, Harleian publication, vol. v.; also Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604.

The manor house in which the Brancestres lived was reconstructed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and replaced by the present house, which since then has been altered and modernized, and is now divided into two dwelling-houses, while of the ancient pleasaunce only a small piece remains attached.

From the Danvers family the house passed by purchase to the Copes, and has since then been in the possession of the Chamberlains, the Hawtaynes—whose shield is carved above the present entrance—the Dashwoods and the Cobbs. There is a tradition that a room in the house is the one in which dissent was first preached in Banbury, and it seems certain that the principal room—that with the oriel window—was used before the year 1688 by the congregation founded by the Rev. Samuel Webb, ejected minister of Banbury. The same congregation used the room after the passing of the Act of Toleration till a new meeting-house was made ready for them, and the room was made more accessible by the addition of outside steps. After the removal of the congregation, the house was used by the Messrs. Cobb as a factory, and a part of it was also used as a bank. While in the possession of the Messrs. Cobb a part of the house, which was used as a factory, being very dilapidated, was pulled down. In 1875 Mr. Edward Cobb sold the house itself with the small remnant of ground immediately around it.*

Immediately above the present entrance an oriel window still remains, and lights the room which was formerly the hall of the mansion, and is the same which was in later times used as a chapel. The window was no doubt at one time filled with stained glass, but of this very little remains; two coats-of-arms only are now recognisable—the one is that of Brancestre, beneath which is written, 'Danvers long time owned Colthroppe,' the other is Brancestre impaling Doyley, and beneath it is written, 'Danvers mached Doyley.' This, therefore, is the shield of George Danvers, who married Elizabeth

---

* Notes by Mr. Cobb, which were very kindly lent to us by C. Fortescue, Esq., of Banbury.

Doyley, the Danvers whom we find paying the highest subsidies in Colthorpe in the years 1545 and 1566. The exact date of his death is uncertain, but he died before 1575, and we may fairly assume that this shield was placed by him; if so, the window and that part of the present house is at least as old as the time of Queen Elizabeth.

To return to John Brancestre, he seems to have acquired Colthorpe early in the reign of Richard II., for his name is present in the very full Lay Subsidy Roll* of 51 Edward III., while it heads the roll of second or fourth Richard II. But that he had land in Banbury as early as the year 1365 we know from a deed preserved at the Record Office ('Ancient Deeds,' vol. ii., B. 3,512, of March 20, 39 Edward III.), a grant by John Brauncestre, of Bannebury, to Katherine, his sister, of 12d. yearly rent from a tenement in the town. His wife's Christian name was Margaret, and we have some evidence that she was Margaret, the daughter of Henry Mile, and widow of William de Welham. The evidence is as follows: Dugdale, in his 'History of Warwickshire,' vol. i., p. 562, states that the manor of Brokehampton, near Kineton, belonged temp. Henry III. to John Mile, who had issue Richard Mile, and he Henry Mile. Henry Mile's daughter and heir, Margaret, was wedded to William de Welham, and outlived him, being a widow in 30 Edward III. (1356). To this Margaret succeeded Sir John Brancestre as owner of the manor, but, says Dugdale, 'whether by purchase or otherwise, I cannot directly affirm,' which John demised all, or the greatest part thereof, to Robert Dalby, 51 Edward III. (1277). It seems, therefore, very probable that John Brancestre obtained the manor by marriage with the widow Margaret.

John Brancestre,† or de Brancestre—the name is written both ways—was probably son of the John Brancestre who appears in the 'Book of Aids,' of 20 Edward III., as holding half a knight's fee in South Morton, Berks. The family takes its name from the town of Brancaster in the north of Norfolk, in the time of the Romans a place of considerable importance, a port and a fortress for the defence of that part of the coast. Blomfield, in his 'History of Norfolk' (vol. x., p. 298), writes: 'There was an ancient family of dignity who assumed their name from this place. John de Brancestre was Vice-Chancellor of England, as appears from a patent of Richard I., and this John was Archdeacon of Worcester.' This John de Brancestre was Vice-Chancellor under Walter Hubert in 1205, one of King John's Chancellors, and on the death of Hubert the great seal remained in his custody until the King sold the Chancellorship to Robert de Gray.*

---

* Divers Counties, $\frac{238}{139}$.

† *u* is often inserted, *i.e.*, Brauncestre.

There are many notices of members of the Brancestre family in Blomfield's 'History of Norfolk,' from which we learn that their principal seat was Brancester Hall, in the parish of Berton. In the year 1324, Adam, son of Thomas Brancester, released all his rights in the hall, and his other possessions to Adam Fincham.

In the year 1300 Richard de Brancestre was Rector of Banbury, and this was apparently the beginning of the connection of the family with that town.

About the year 1369† we find a Thomas de Brancestre settled at Culworth, near Banbury, where he had obtained a third share of its manors and appurtenances by his marriage with Agnes, relict of Hugh de Missendun—an estate, however, which he did not long retain, for in 1375 he sold his share to the trustees appointed for Alice Ferrers, mistress of King Edward III.

We have no evidence that this Thomas de Brancestre was a relative to John de Brancestre, of Colthorpe, but the time and neighbourhood, and the name, an uncommon one, indicate relationship. Nor have we evidence that Thomas or John de Brancestre came to Banbury from Norfolk. On the contrary, it is not probable that a member of an inconsiderable Norfolk family would remove to Banbury, buying a property there. It is far more likely that John de Brancestre, of Colthorpe, came from London, and that he was one of the successful City traders who at the period very commonly bought country estates. Now, at an early period, as we learn from the

---

* Campbell's 'Lives of the Lord Chancellors,' vol. i., p. 123.

† Fine Rolls, 42 Edward III, m 9. Also Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604.

Hustings Rolls and feet of fines of London, a branch of the Brauncestre family was established as goldsmiths in the City;* in the year 1276 Thomas de Brauncestre, a goldsmith, had houses in the parishes of St. Nicholas le Shambles, St. Vedast, and All Hallows, Bread Street, and we learn that his wife's name was Isabel, daughter of Reginald de Cambridge. Thomas died prior to the year 1280, but he appears to have left a son, Thomas de Brauncestre 'Junior,' who died in the year 1308; he also was a goldsmith, and was of All Hallows, Bread Street. Then we have an Alan de Brauncestre, in business in the City in the year 1280, dead in the year 1300. His wife's name was Imania, and she died in the year 1321. Alan was a goldsmith, with a shop in Chepe, in the parish of St. Peter's, Wood Street, and he had 'a solar,' probably the family dwelling-house, as distinguished from the shop, in St. Andrew's, Castle Baynard.

Alan had a son, Alan, whose wife's name was Agnes (London fine, 112 of 6 Edward II.), who followed the same trade as his father at the shop in Chepe, and with a house in St. Faith's of the Crypt. He died in the year 1336. Then we have a John de Brauncestre, also a goldsmith, with a shop in Chepe, and probably brother or son to Alan. He died in the year 1348. Gilbert de Brauncestre, whose wife's name was Dionisia (London fine, 170 of 17 Edward III.), flourished in the City about the same time as John. Thomas de Brauncestre died in the City in the year 1312. In the year 1360, or thereabouts, died John de Brauncestre, a goldsmith, with a house in St. Faith's of the Crypt. We find in the Hustings Rolls no further mention of the family after the time of this John de Brauncestre, and not improbably because about this time its most successful members migrated to the country. At any rate, about this time we find, as already mentioned, a John de Brancestre with half a fief in Berks, John de Brancestre settling at Colthorpe, Banbury, and Thomas de Brancestre at Culworth.

---

* Regarding these City Brancestres, cf. the 'Calendar of the Hustings Rolls,' City Record Office, Guildhall, and 'Calendar of Wills of Hustings Rolls,' edited for the Corporation by Reginald R. Sharpe, Esq., D.C.L., London, 1889.

Therefore, it is very probable that John de Brancestre of Colthorpe was a goldsmith of the City branch of the family. When first he appears at Banbury he is designated 'armiger,' while in later documents his title is 'chevalier,' one applied to knights who belonged to a certain order of knighthood. His wife's name, as we have seen, was Margaret, and, as we learn from a document catalogued amongst the ancient deeds* in the Record Office, he had a son John, who pre-deceased him, and a brother Richard. The document is a release from Richard Brancestre of Rothele, chaplain, to Richard Danvers of Banbury, of his rights in lands formerly the property of his brother, John Brancestre, and of Margaret his wife, and of John their son, in the town and field of Banbury, Colthorpe, and Wykham. The deed is witnessed by Thomas Wakfield, Mayor, and by William Byssham, Bailiff of the town of Leicester. The deed is dated Wednesday before Easter, 17 Richard II. (1394

John de Brancestre was alive in the year 1378, for amongst the charters preserved at the Record Office is one dated 2 Richard II. (No. 181, Augmentation), in which he grants some tenements and lands to the Master of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, of Banbury. In the year 1392 both he and his wife were dead, as appears from an entry in the Patent Roll of 16 Richard II. (Part ii., m. 28), in which license is given to John Scotte to assign to the Vicar of Banbury a messuage and garden to keep up for ever a certain yearly anniversary on the Feast of St. George, for the souls of John Brancestre, chevalier, and Margaret his wife.

To return to Richard Danvers. Born about the year 1330, or a few years later, he grew to manhood in the secluded village of Ipswell, away from the ordinary lines of communication between the West Country and London, a circumstance to which he may have owed his safety during the years 1348 and 1349, when the Black Death, on its eastward march, ravaged and almost depopulated many neighbouring towns and villages. Richard Danvers arrived at manhood at a period which was one of great glory to the arms of England, when the victory of Poitiers had raised the Black Prince to the summit of his renown as a military commander, and the Kings of France and Scotland were prisoners in London.

---

* 'Calendar of Ancient Records,' Record Office, vol. i., B. 213.

But it is not till the year 1365 that we find authentic record of the name of Richard Danvers,* and then he appears as a juror in a King's Inquisition, and again in the same capacity in the year 1368.

The next notice that we have of Richard is in an Oxon fine (No. 28 of 43 Edward III.), A.D. 1369, and it is an interesting record, as in it we find him buying a house, seven virgates of land, and seventeen acres of meadow in Little Bourton—probably a portion of the ancestral property, and we may mention in illustration of the cheapness of land and the value of money at the period, that Richard pays for the house land—about two hundred acres—only ten silver marks.

The next notice of Richard Danvers is in the charter, dated 1386, by which he confirms to Eynesham Abbey the land in Fanflore which his ancestor Robert had some hundred and fifty years before granted to it, and, comparing the beautiful penmanship of the earlier charter, with the slovenly, ill-written entry of Richard's deed, we are forcibly reminded of the temporary decadence in the discipline and learning of the religious houses which the ravages of the Black Death had caused. The text of the charter has already been given in an appendix to Chapter III.

Excepting in Ipswell, the old possessions of the Danvers family had been alienated by sale or in the way of dower to daughters of the family. And not only were the possessions of the then members of the family curtailed, the tenures of those lands Richard Danvers still possessed differed much from those which had prevailed in the time of his great-grandfather, Robert. Richard was still lord of the manor of Ipswell, but the ancient feudal organization was gone; his tenants were no longer his personal dependents, working out their service to him in barn and field, with 'no choice of a master or of a sphere of toil;'† the land was now leased to farmers, who paid their rents in money or in kind, while the labourer was free to work where he would, and for the highest wages he could secure. John Ball, the mad priest of Kent, had proclaimed the natural equality and the rights of man. Wyclif was appealing to the people at large against the corruptions and extortions of the Church, the Lollards were preaching religious equality to the peasantry in every village, while the neighbouring University of Oxford had become the 'fount and centre of the new heresies.'

---

* Chancery Inquisition, Southampton, 39 Edward III., second numbers, No. 49.

† See section 3, chap. v., of Green's 'History of the English People.'

The country gentry, in alliance with the burgesses of the towns, were becoming a power in the state, and, by transferring his residence from Ipswell manor house to Colthorpe, Richard Danvers obtained opportunities of advancement, and a position far more influential, than that which would have been his as a country squire.

About the end of the fourteenth century we find mention of Richard Danvers in several contemporary documents; thus in the years 1394 and 1400 he is a King's assessor (Lay Subsidy Rolls of 18 Richard II. and 2 Henry IV.). Amongst the muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford, are two, dated respectively 1388 and 1390, in which, as already noticed, Richard Danvers, of Ipswell, is mentioned. In the year 1395 (Northampton fine 47, 18 Richard II.), we find Richard Danvers and his wife Agnes selling houses and land at Upton, near Northampton); and in 1399 (Oxon fine 77 of 22 Richard II.) Richard buys land in Nethrop, a suburb of Banbury.

Amongst the MSS. at the College of Arms is a collection of copies of old charters made by Richard Glover, Somerset Herald, in 1570, and amongst these, at page 8, is a note of one dated 1403, of Richard Danvers, of Banbury, and his son John. The charter has not been preserved, but Glover gives a rough sketch of the seal, and adds: 'cui appendit tale sigillum.* In circumferentia predicti sigilli sic legitur carmen. Est aquilæ capitis signumque figura Johannis.'

The armorial bearings on the shield are the same as those given by Vincent in his pedigree of the Danvers family, three (or four) bendlets, and three escallops in chief. On each side of the shield, in a half circle, is an eagle, the sign of St. John, to which the motto refers. And the charter was no doubt one to the hospital of St. John at Banbury, to which, as we have seen, Sir John Brancestre was a benefactor.

---

* See also Harleian MSS., 6,148, p. 72*b*.

We have not, unfortunately, either the will or the post-mortem inquisition of Richard Danvers, and we do not know the date of his death,* which, however, must have been in the early part of the fifteenth century, when he had witnessed the marriage of his son John with Alice Verney, and the birth of more than one grandchild.

John Danvers, who succeeded his father at Ipswell and Colthorpe, married first Alice Verney, and secondly Joan Bruley. Of their ancestry we shall give an account in another chapter. In the 'Heralds' Visitations,'† in which these marriages are recorded, John Danvers is called of Ipswell and Banbury. By his first wife he had three sons, Robert, Richard and John, and one daughter, Agnes or Annys.

John Danvers cannot have been born later than the year 1382, as in the year 1403 he is of age to join his father in giving a charter. In the year 1413, the first year of the reign of Henry V.,‡ we find him, with others, engaged in founding the chantry of the Blessed Mary in Banbury Church, where for ever two priests were daily to say Masses for the souls of the King, and of Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, of Philip de Repingdon, Bishop of Lincoln, and of John Danvers, and others who are named. Then, thirty-five years after, we find John Danvers and others founding a fraternity or guild of Saint Mary of Banbury to support certain religious services and chaplains, and eight poor persons dwelling in the almshouse, and their successors in the same place for ever.

The old almshouse was pulled down in 1711, when the present house was built by Francis, Lord North and Guildford, and the inmates still receive in the form of an endowment, formerly called the 'weekly,' and now the 'widows',' groats, the benefits of the guild founded by John Danvers and his fellow townsmen in 1448.

---

* He was alive in 1409, for in the Lay Subsidy Roll ($\frac{155}{57}$), Northampton, 11 Henry IV., are the names of Richard Danvers of Staverton and John Danvers of Byfield.

† Cf. vol. v., Harleian Society's publications; also Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 614; and Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604; also Harleian Roll, p. 10, and Vincent's pedigree of the family at the Heralds' College. Also Aske's pedigree of Danvers in Collect. Topog. et Genealog.

‡ Cf. Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' pp. 156 and 175.

In the year 1431 the Bishop of Lincoln* sold to John Danvers his manor of Esendon (Easington), by Banbury, with houses and lands, etc., belonging thereto, together with the warren of Warden, and the work due from tenants of Nethrop and Colthorp, with amercements, etc., in the court of the Bishop and his successors, and also his fishery in the Cherwell.

In the Close Rolls and Oxfordshire fines of this period, we find the record of many purchases of houses and lands by John Danvers: in 1417, in Bourton Magna and Parva, and the same year in Wardington Bourton, Banbury, and Tusmere, and again, in 1420, property in Wardington, and Bourton (Oxon fines, 15 of 4 Henry V., and 38 of 7 Henry V.; Close Rolls, 4 and 6 Henry V.). In 1439, in conjunction with his eldest son Robert Danvers, John Danvers bought from John Vernon land and houses in Wycombe, Taplow, Hutcham and Hedsore (Close Roll 18 Henry VI.), and at the same time he, with his second son, Richard, bought an angular tenement in a new street in Deddington.

Then we find him in 1419 making one of the most notable of his purchases, that of Prestcote Manor and its appurtenances, with lands in Prestcote, Cropredy, Wardington, Williamscote, Mollington, Bourton Magna and Parva, Banbury and Shottswell, all of which he bought of Sir Thomas Cottesford† and his wife Alice (Oxon fines, 17, 6 Henry V., No. 22 of 5 Henry V.; Close Roll 7 Henry V., M. 19). Of Prestcote Manor more will be said hereafter; at present let it suffice to note that John Danvers was buying back the lands in Bourton and the neighbourhood which belonged to his ancestors, whom we have frequently found associated with the lords of Prestcote, Cropredy, Williamscote and Wardington, in charters to the Priory of Chaucumbe and other neighbouring religious foundations. Prestcote remained with John's descendants till the year 1721.

---

* Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, Record Office, vol. i., C. 1184.

† Record Office, Miscellaneous Charters, vol. iv., No. 229 of 35 Edward III. Charter of Roger de Cottesford of Prestcote to Prior of Chacumbe.

In Oxon fine, 85 of 18 Henry VI. (1439), we find John Danvers and others buying from Sir Thomas Wykeham the manor of Saint Amand, in Adderbury, with its appurtenances in that parish, and in the hamlet of Milton. Other names are mentioned in the fine, but Sir Thomas Wykeham was the seller, and John Danvers was the purchaser of the manor, and to his son, Sir Thomas Danvers, the manor passed at his death. At Adderbury a branch of the Danvers family remained till the reign of Charles II.

In addition to the above and other lands which John Danvers bought, he received as dowry with his first wife, Alice Verney, land in Byfield, and with his second wife, Joan Bruley, who was a considerable heiress, the manor of Waterstock, and the advowson of the church, the manor of Henton, in Oxfordshire, the manor of Corston, in Wilts, and the advowson of the chapel there. John Danvers was evidently a wealthy man, and it seems very probable that he gained a portion of his wealth by trading. He was Knight of the Shire of Oxford in three Parliaments, those of November, 1420, November, 1421, and September, 1423. In the first two of these he had as one of his colleagues his distant cousin, Sir William Danvers, who at the time represented the county of Berkshire, and was then, or shortly after, knighted. John Danvers does not appear to have been a knight, and, indeed, if we look through the rolls of the members of the period, we find that a large proportion of the knights of the shires were simple esquires, but it was ordered that the persons chosen should be notable knights of the shire which elected them, or else notable squires, gentlemen of birth, capable of becoming knights, and no man of the degree of yeoman or below it was eligible.*

Most commonly the Parliaments were at this time held at Westminster, yet not unfrequently at Winchester, and occasionally at Oxford, Northampton, Coventry, and other cities and towns.

---

* Stubbs' 'Constitutional History,' vol. ii., p. 435.

At Westminster the Parliament assembled in the Painted Chamber, so called from the pictorial decorations of its roofs and walls, a chamber which originally formed a part of Edward the Confessor's palace, but had been enlarged and adorned during the reign of Henry III.* Until the accession of Henry VII. this chamber was used for meetings of the full Parliament, for the opening speech of the Chancellor, and as the place of conference between the two houses. Extending nearly at a right angle from the east end of the Painted Chamber was the old House of Lords, rebuilt probably by Henry II., on foundations of the time of Edward the Confessor's reign. Beneath were the vaults, the ancient kitchens of the old palace, in which, in after times, the Gunpowder Plot conspirators stored their explosives. All these buildings have been long since swept away, but the adjacent Chapter House of the Abbey, in which, until the reign of Edward VI., the Commons usually sat, still remains. 'The visitor of to-day, as he pauses at the entrance of the Chapter House of Westminster, may be reminded that it was within the walls of that ancient council-chamber of monks—where he can still see the spot where successive abbots and priors sat in their stalls of office—that for nearly three centuries the members of the English House of Commons—from the time when in the troubled reign of the royal builder of that fair edifice, it first assumed a separate and independent form, down to the reign of the boy-king, Edward VI.—found from the first their most usual, and in a few years their regular and accustomed Metropolitan Parliament-House.' It was thither that the 'knights, citizens, and burgesses' were summoned from shire and city and borough town by royal writ, to meet 'in the House of the Chapter in the great cloister of the Abbey of Westminster, to consider the calls for pecuniary aid in expenditure at home, or in the prosecution of foreign wars.'†

And there, in November, 1420, from Colthorpe, or Ipswell, or Prestcote, or Waterstock, came John Danvers, at a time when many thoughtful men were trembling for the outcome of Henry V.'s victories in France, and were longing for his return to England. The King was represented at Westminster by his brother, Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, and the Parliament of November, 1420, was opened by the new Chancellor, Thomas Longley, Bishop of Durham, who took for his text the words: 'Comfortamini et viriliter agite et gloriosi eritis.' Gloucester did not ask the Parliament for money, for money was very scarce; moreover, the peace was becoming troubled in the North, and the Chancellor had little on which to congratulate the Parliament, excepting the decrease of the Lollards. Influenced by him, the Lords passed an order that Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, should be burnt, under the sentence passed upon him as a heretic—while the Commons passed an Act by which all foreign merchants bringing wool to England were obliged to pay into the Mint an ounce of gold, and for three pieces of tin the same—an Act which was no doubt intended to protect the English merchants in two of the main products of the country—wool and tin. Lords and Commons alike sent a pressing invitation to the King and his bride, Katherine of France, to visit England.

---

* Stubbs' 'Constitutional History,' vol. iii., p. 415.

† Letter from the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster in the *Times* of June 5, 1891.

And so the King came home, and magnificent was the reception which with his wife he received, and shortly he summoned a Parliament, which met in May of 1421, and was opened by a speech from the King himself, in which he represented the state of affairs,* the conquests he had made in France, and the supplies which were needful to continue the war; assuring the Parliament that the Dauphin and his party, who maintained some cities and provinces, once subdued, France might be entirely united to the English Crown. But the reverses which, during his absence, his armies suffered, obliged the King to return to France, and on June 10, 1421, he left England never to return.

In December following, the need for further supplies obliged the Regent, the Duke of Bedford, to call a Parliament, at which John Danvers was again present as one of the knights of the shire for Oxford. With the consent of the other House the Commons granted a liberal subsidy, but with the proviso that the first half of it should be paid in the money then current, and it was also ordered that all such money should pass if not notoriously clipped and washed. On December 6, during the sitting of this Parliament, Henry of Windsor was born, and in the following May the Queen left England to join her husband, who died in August, 1422, at Vincennes, in the thirty-fourth year of his age.

---

* 'Parliamentary History,' 1421.

John Danvers was absent from the first Parliament of Henry VI., but he sat in the following one, which assembled in October, 1423, in the Painted Chamber at Westminster, under the presidency of the Duke of Gloucester, the Protector of the Kingdom. Lord Chancellor Longley, Bishop of Durham, opened the proceedings with a speech from the text 'Fear God, honour the King,' exhorting the Parliament to give to the King the love and honour which they had given to his father. Near the throne were many nobles who were to take an active part in coming events—amongst them John Danvers would see Henry, Earl of Northumberland, Edmund, Earl of March, and Richard, Earl of Warwick, and doubtless amongst them was present Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, the uncle and rival for power of the Protector.

The Commons chose John Russell as their Speaker, and a committee of the House shortly waited upon the Duke of Gloucester to thank him for the treaty which had been made with Scotland, and for the release and marriage of James, the King of Scotland, who had been married to Jane, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, niece therefore to the Bishop of Winchester. Three other ladies also occupied the attention of John Danvers and his confrères—Joan, the Dowager Queen of Henry IV., had her dower and all her arrears restored to her, while two foreign ladies were naturalized, Anne, the sister of Philip, Duke of Burgundy, whom the Duke of Bedford had married, and Jacqueline, of Hainault and Holland, who had left her husband, John, Duke of Brabant, on the plea of too near consanguinity, and, coming for refuge to England, married the Duke of Gloucester.

To return to John Danvers. If Antony Wood is right, he employed some of his wealth in adding to the buildings of Archbishop Chicheley's newly-founded college, All Souls, Oxford. He writes, 'On the north side of the chapel is a quadrangular cloister begun in the founder's time (before 1443), finished with the moneys of Thomas Overy, and with those, as I conceive, of John Danvers, Esq., whose arms, impaling those of Bruley, are at this day remaining carved in stone over the east door of the cloister leading to the college walks.'*

The last record of John Danvers which we have discovered is dated in 1448, and he must have died shortly after, and was probably buried in the chantry which he had helped to found in Banbury Church. His shield, Brancestre impaling Bruley, was amongst those which Antony Wood mentions as in his time in the church.

At Ipswell, at Prestcote and in Bourton, John Danvers was succeeded by his sons by his first wife, Robert and Richard; his third son, John, was a clerk in holy orders. The property which he obtained as dowry with his second wife, together with Colthorpe and the Adderbury manor, went to Thomas Danvers, his eldest son by his second wife, with remainder to William, the second son.

Joan, widow of John Danvers, married Sir Walter Mauntell, of Nether Heyford, Northampton, and a stone formerly marked her resting-place in the village church. But this, like all the monuments of her own family, is lost or destroyed, The Latin inscription cut on the stone mentioned her former husbands, Walter Mauntell and John Danvers. In the year 1490 (Dodsworth MS. No. 22, folio 52) was proved the will of a Sir Walter Mauntell, in which he desires that he may be buried in the church of Lower Heyford, and he makes Amys, his wife, and William Danvers, Serjeant-at-law, his executors, but we have not been able to determine whether it was this Sir Walter who was the husband of Joan Bruley.

---

* 'History of the Oxford Colleges,' edition of 1786, p. 307.

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1400—1504.

John Danvers, of Colthorpe, married his first wife, Alice Verney, about the year 1399, and by her had three sons and one daughter. Of these the eldest was Robert, who, as we learn from the register of Lincoln's Inn, was admitted a student of the Inn in the year 1420. As students were at that period usually admitted when in their teens, it is probable that Robert was born about the year 1400, in the first year of the reign of Henry IV., and not improbably he left Banbury for London with his father in the autumn of the year 1420, when the latter was about to take his place in Parliament.

Robert Danvers, as his success in life gives evidence, inherited the business talents and energy of his father, and in the year 1428* we find that he had already won a good position in his profession, and was then one of the governors of Lincoln's Inn. In the year 1433 he had become officially connected with the office of the Privy Council, for there is in that year record of his having been implicated in the matter of an erasure made in an Act of the Council. He was, however, fully exonerated from all blame by a special warrant under the privy seal. The following year† we find him buying, in conjunction with his father, the manor of Adderbury. The next record that we find of him is in the year 1436, when he and Richard Drayton were members of Parliament for the county of Oxford, and three years after he and

---

* Foss's 'Biographical Dictionary of the Judges.'

† Close Roll, 12 Henry VI., Oxon, m.x. General retainers were customary in Robert's day. He received 6s. 8d. annually from Bicester Priory as his fee. Cf. Rev. J. C. Blomfield's 'Deanery of Bicester,' Part ii.

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1400—1504.

John Danvers, of Colthorpe, married his first wife, Alice Verney, about the year 1399, and by her had three sons and one daughter. Of these the eldest was Robert, who, as we learn from the register of Lincoln's Inn, was admitted a student of the Inn in the year 1420. As students were at that period usually admitted when in their teens, it is probable that Robert was born about the year 1400, in the first year of the reign of Henry IV., and not improbably he left Banbury for London with his father in the autumn of the year 1420, when the latter was about to take his place in Parliament.

Robert Danvers, as his success in life gives evidence, inherited the business talents and energy of his father, and in the year 1428* we find that he had already won a good position in his profession, and was then one of the governors of Lincoln's Inn. In the year 1433 he had become officially connected with the office of the Privy Council, for there is in that year record of his having been implicated in the matter of an erasure made in an Act of the Council. He was, however, fully exonerated from all blame by a special warrant under the privy seal. The following year† we find him buying, in conjunction with his father, the manor of Adderbury. The next record that we find of him is in the year 1436, when he and Richard Drayton were members of Parliament for the county of Oxford, and three years after he and

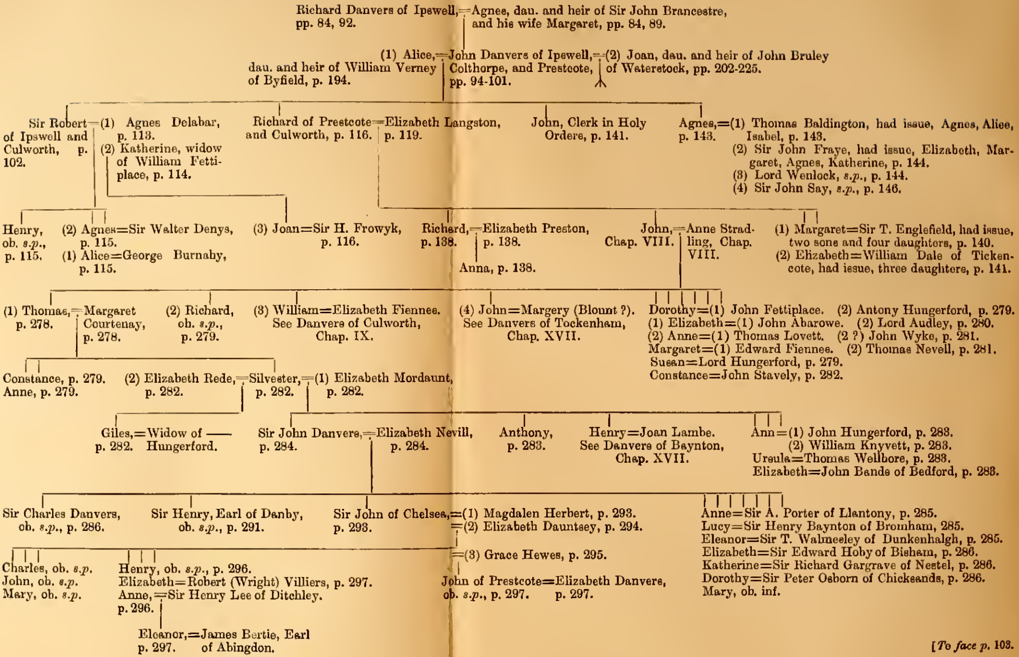
---

* Foss's 'Biographical Dictionary of the Judges.'

† Close Roll, 12 Henry VI., Oxon, m.x. General retainers were customary in Robert's day. He received 6s. 8d. annually from Bicester Priory as his fee. Cf. Rev. J. C. Blomfield's 'Deanery of Bicester,' Part ii.

DANVERS OF PRESTCOTE AND DAUNTSEY.

(Chapters V. and VIII.)



Richard Danvers of Ipswell, pp. 84, 92.=Agnes, dau. and heir of Sir John Brancestre, and his wife Margaret, pp. 84, 89.

(1) Alice, dau. and heir of William Verney of Byfield, p. 194.=John Danvers of Ipswell, Colthorpe, and Prestcote, pp. 94-101.=(2) Joan, dau. and heir of John Bruley of Waterstock, pp. 202-225.

Sir Robert of Ipswell and Culworth, p. 102.=(1) Agnes Delabar, p. 113. (2) Katherine, widow of William Fettiplace, p. 114.

Richard of Prestcote and Culworth, p. 116.=Elizabeth Langston, p. 119.

John, Clerk in Holy Orders, p. 141.

Agnes, p. 143.=(1) Thomas Baldington, had issue, Agnes, Alice, Isabel, p. 143.
(2) Sir John Fraye, had issue, Elizabeth, Margaret, Agnes, Katherine, p. 144.
(3) Lord Wenlock, *s.p.*, p. 144.
(4) Sir John Say, *s.p.*, p. 146.

Henry, ob. *s.p.*, p. 115.

(2) Agnes=Sir Walter Denys, p. 115.
(1) Alice=George Burnaby, p. 115.

(3) Joan=Sir H. Frowyk, p. 116.

Richard, p. 138.=Elizabeth Preston, p. 138.
Anna, p. 138.

John, Chap. VIII.=Anne Stradling, Chap. VIII.

(1) Margaret=Sir T. Englefield, had issue, two sons and four daughters, p. 140.
(2) Elizabeth=William Dale of Tickencote, had issue, three daughters, p. 141.

(1) Thomas, p. 278.=Margaret Courtenay, p. 278.

(2) Richard, ob. *s.p.*, p. 279.

(3) William=Elizabeth Fiennes. See Danvers of Culworth, Chap. IX.

(4) John=Margery (Blount ?). See Danvers of Tockenham, Chap. XVII.

Dorothy=(1) John Fettiplace. (2) Antony Hungerford, p. 279.
(1) Elizabeth=(1) John Abarowe. (2) Lord Audley, p. 280.
(2) Anne=(1) Thomas Lovett. (2 ?) John Wyke, p. 281.
Margaret=(1) Edward Fiennes. (2) Thomas Nevell, p. 281.
Susan=Lord Hungerford, p. 279.
Constance=John Stavely, p. 282.

Constance, p. 279.
Anne, p. 279.

(2) Elizabeth Rede, p. 282.=Silvester, p. 282.=(1) Elizabeth Mordaunt, p. 282.

Giles, p. 282.=Widow of —— Hungerford.

Sir John Danvers, p. 284.=Elizabeth Nevill, p. 284.

Anthony, p. 283.

Henry=Joan Lambe. See Danvers of Baynton, Chap. XVII.

Ann=(1) John Hungerford, p. 283.
(2) William Knyvett, p. 283.
Ursula=Thomas Wellbore, p. 283.
Elizabeth=John Bande of Bedford, p. 283.

Sir Charles Danvers, ob. *s.p.*, p. 286.

Sir Henry, Earl of Danby, ob. *s.p.*, p. 291.

Sir John of Chelsea, p. 293.=(1) Magdalen Herbert, p. 293.
=(2) Elizabeth Dauntsey, p. 294.
=(3) Grace Hewes, p. 295.

Anne=Sir A. Porter of Llantony, p. 285.
Lucy=Sir Henry Baynton of Bromham, 285.
Eleanor=Sir T. Walmesley of Dunkenhalgh, p. 285.
Elizabeth=Sir Edward Hoby of Bisham, p. 286.
Katherine=Sir Richard Gargrave of Nostel, p. 286.
Dorothy=Sir Peter Osborn of Chicksands, p. 286.
Mary, ob. inf.

Charles, ob. *s.p.*
John, ob. *s.p.*
Mary, ob. *s.p.*

Henry, ob. *s.p.*, p. 296.
Elizabeth=Robert (Wright) Villiers, p. 297.
Anne, p. 296.=Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley.

John of Prestcote, ob. *s.p.*, p. 297.=Elizabeth Danvers, p. 297.

Eleanor, p. 297.=James Bertie, Earl of Abingdon.

[*To face p.* 103.

his father bought houses* and land in Wycombe, Taplow and Hitcham. At this time we have evidence of his advancement, holding, as he then did, the office of Common Serjeant to the City of London, whence, in the year 1442, he was promoted to the Recordership of the City, and in the year 1450 was raised to the bench. Robert Danvers had also in the interval been made one of the King's serjeants, and in the year 1445† sat as Member of Parliament for the City. This period of his life is further interesting from his connection at the time with Archbishop Chicheley in the foundation by that prelate of the College of All Souls, Oxford. The part which Robert Danvers took in the foundation of the college was a subordinate one, yet it was of such a character as to gain for him a recognised place amongst the early benefactors of the college. But before we pass to the consideration of his work with Archbishop Chicheley and the history of the Parliaments in which he sat, it may be well to notice very briefly the course of public events during the earlier part of his career.

The records of the entries at Lincoln's Inn commence in the first year of Henry VI., and that year is noted as the third Christmas of Robert Danvers and a few other students. In the previous August, Henry V. had died in the flower of his age, and had left the thrones of England and France to his son, an infant of nine months old. The Duke of Bedford was Regent of France and England; his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, was Protector of the Kingdom; Thomas Longley, Bishop of Durham, was Chancellor, and Chicheley was Archbishop of Canterbury. Closely associated with them in the government was Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, second son of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swinford, uncle, therefore, to the royal dukes. Already had begun the rivalry for power between the Bishop and his nephew, the Duke of Gloucester; the former, in unison with the Duke of Bedford, leading the party which desired an honourable peace with France, the latter heading the popular war party, excited and sustained by the recollection of the triumphs of the late King, and unmindful of the miseries which the continuance of the war involved. For a time the English arms were successful under the guidance of the Duke of Bedford and his generals, Suffolk, Talbot and Sir John Fastolf, but in the year 1429 a series of reverses began, when, under the leading of Joan of Arc, Orleans was relieved, and the Dauphin Charles was crowned at Rheims. In the following year Henry VI., then but ten years of age, was crowned at Westminster, and shortly after was crowned in Paris. The latter was, however, but an empty ceremony, for reverses in France and troubles at home were quickly gathering, and when in the year 1432 Bedford, the wisest and best of the English rulers, lost his wife, and shortly after offended his ally, the Duke of Burgundy, by marrying without his consent his ward, Jacquetta of Luxembourg, the only remaining hope for the successful carrying on of the war was lost. In 1435 Bedford died, and the young Duke of York, who took his place, was quite unable to cope with the arms of France and Burgundy. And this brings us to the year 1436, when Robert Danvers was one of the knights of the county for Oxon. The Parliament, called at Cambridge, met at Westminster in January, and was opened by a speech from John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the then Chancellor. For his text he took the words, ‘Corona regni in manu Dei,’* on which he demonstrated that three sorts of men are crowned, viz., all Christians in their baptism, in token whereof they are anointed; all clerks in their orders, in token whereof they are shaven; and all kings in their coronation, who in token thereof wear a crown of gold. Not improbably it was in this Parliament that Robert Danvers recommended himself to the notice of the Chancellor and the Archbishop; the former was, indeed, a lawyer by profession, and practised for some years, until Chicheley gave him his first promotion in the Church, making him Dean of Arches and a prebend of Lincoln. Chicheley was at the time preparing for the foundation of a college at Oxford. Born about the year 1362, he was one of the earliest, as he was one of the most eminent, of Wykeham's scholars, and having, in no small measure owing to the education he had received at Winchester, attained to the highest place in the English

---

* Close Roll of 18 Henry VI.

† Noorthouck's 'History of London.' London, 1773.

---

* ‘Parliamentary History,’ vol. i., p. 374.

Church, he determined to do honour to his early benefactor by extending to future generations opportunities such as he had himself enjoyed. With this object in view he set about the foundation of a college at Oxford, which in the first instance was intended to be a chantry where prayers might be said for the souls of those who had fallen in the wars with France; hence its name, 'All Souls.' Chicheley commenced his work by buying ten acres of land in the north suburb of Oxford, the present site of St. John's College, but determining to build his college in another part of the city, he presented the ten acres to the Cistercians, and thereon was built St. Barnard's College, parts of which still exist in the buildings of St. John's College. In the year 1437 Chicheley bought the land on which All Souls College now stands and began the erection of the college buildings.

The Oxford of 1437, excepting in its eminence as a University, differed vastly from the Oxford of the present day. Doyly's great Norman castle then dominated the city, and near to it was the King's hall or palace. The two great monasteries of St. Frideswide and Oseney took in a measure the place of the present colleges, while the four orders of mendicant friars and the Benedictines had their conventual schools. Several portions of Merton College existed, New College had lately been built, but of the other pre-Chicheley colleges, as Balliol, Exeter, Oriel, Queens and Lincoln, the buildings* were of a poor sort, and were probably wholly destroyed when those colleges were rebuilt. Instead of the colleges, writes Professor Burrows, there were a multitude of closely-packed squalid habitations in irregular streets and lanes; interspersed with them were the little halls in which the scholars for the most part resided. In the centre of Oxford, where university buildings now stand, thirty-two humble tenements in rows facing one another formed the '*vicus scholarum*'—school street.

No doubt Chicheley foresaw the troubles which were coming upon all religious foundations, partly because of the jealousy with which they were viewed by the people, who, suffering from poverty and famine, saw the Church alone retaining wealth and prosperity; and partly because, as Chicheley well knew, the monastic foundations had outlived the work they were intended to perform, and there was the fear lest with them might fall his and other collegiate foundations. Therefore he determined, as far as possible, to secure his foundation by making the King a co-founder; this he did, and, further, he had the royal charter confirmed by the Pope. The wisdom of his precautions was shown by subsequent events, for though the property of the college was for a time appropriated by Edward IV., it was restored to the foundation by Henry VII.

---

* Professor Montagu Burrows' 'Worthies of All Souls.'

In order to carry out his plans, Chicheley needed a clever business man, one who sympathized with his views, and such a man he found in Robert Danvers, a well educated lawyer, a member of an ancient family, devoted to the Church by its history and by present associations, and a man of standing in the county which he had lately represented in Parliament. And so it is that amongst the archives of All Souls* are found many documents in which the name of Robert Danvers appears. He seems to have been one of the trustees† whom the Archbishop employed in buying property, which was made over to the King, to be returned by him to the college of which he was co-founder.

A curious record remains of the estimation in which Robert Danvers' services were held by the early members of All Souls, and it is as follows. Until the time of Queen Elizabeth and Archbishop Parker prayers and masses were daily offered, as the terms of the foundation demanded, in the college chapel for all souls, including those who had fallen at Agincourt and elsewhere during the wars with France, and for the souls of the early benefactors of the college. But at the period just mentioned came Commissioners to the college to see that the reformed method of worship had been introduced, and that the 'mass-books' had been removed. Troublous times ensued, for the warden and fellows abided by the old faith and mode of worship, but eventually the Commissioners prevailed, and of the service-books of the chapel nought remained but one 'crumpled leaf,' 'decayed and mutilated,' a relic which still exists amongst the college archives. The leaf is evidently one torn from the service-book, which contained the names of benefactors, living and dead, for whom prayers were to be offered. The living benefactors mentioned are Henry VI., Thomas (Bourchier), Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard Andrew, Dean of York, Robert Danvers . . . i regis, Roger Keys, late Warden, John Byrkhede, Rector of Harrow, John Wraby, late Rector of Lymmenge, Thomas Ballard, Esq., and Phillippa his wife, William Halys and Matilda his wife, Dame Joan Croxford, sister of the college, and her sons and daughters.*

---

* C. T. Martin's 'Archives of All Souls College.'

† Antony Wood's 'History of the Oxford Colleges,' p. 305, edition of 1786.

In the year 1442 Robert Danvers was appointed to the Recordership of London, and three years later sat as member for London in the Parliament which was called in February of that year to sanction the King's marriage with Margaret of Anjou. This was the marriage which had been arranged as a basis for peace with France by the new Minister, De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, acting for the party of which Cardinal Beaufort had long been the head. For peace was indeed very needful to the land; the finances were exhausted, while the sufferings of the people, the result of the long-continued wars abroad, and of famine and pestilence at home, were very great. The peace was an inglorious one for England, and one that would scarcely have been accepted by the people, even in their low estate, had they been fully acquainted with its terms. The King was to receive no dower with his bride, and all that remained of the English possessions in Anjou and Maine was to be delivered up to France. And this settled, Suffolk brought over the young Princess, only sixteen year of age, and in April, 1445, the King was married to her, and no doubt Robert Danvers took his part in the festivities with which the City welcomed the bride.† The peace and the Queen were as yet new and popular, and the restoration of commerce with France was a great boon. Suffolk gave account of his labours, and received the thanks of both

---

* See preface to C. T. Martin's 'Archives of All Souls.'

† Stubbs' 'Constitutional History,' vol. iii., p. 43.

Houses of Parliament, supported by the friendship of the Queen, who speedily obtained a complete mastery over her husband's will. Suffolk became the dominating spirit in the government of the country, and on Cardinal Beaufort's death, in the year 1447, became Chief Minister.

But the unpopularity which he had earned, mainly by the dishonourable marriage treaty that he had concluded, gave power to a new rival, who appeared upon the scene in the person of Richard, Duke of York, grandson of Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, youngest son of Edward III. The Duke was the head of the House of York, as the reigning King was representative and head of the line descended from John of Gaunt, the elder brother of Edmund, and Duke of Lancaster.

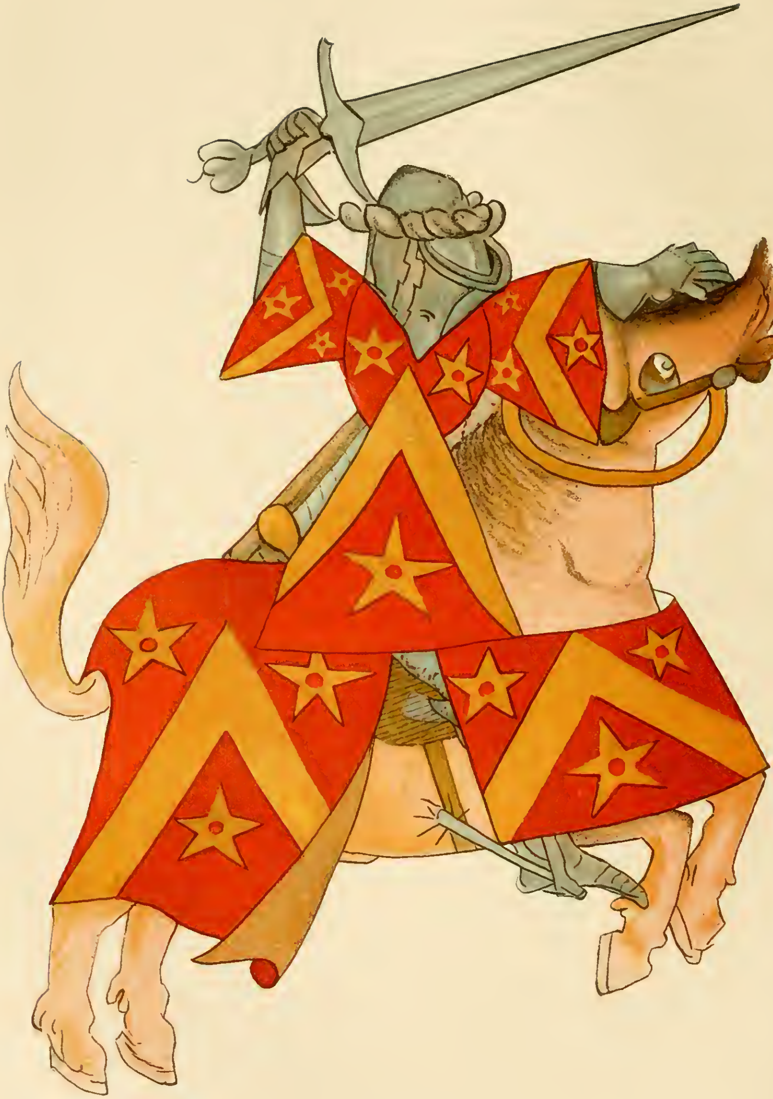
The loss of Rouen in the year 1449 was the immediate cause of the fall of Suffolk. Sentenced by the King to banishment, he took ship for France, but was captured by an English ship of war, and after a mock trial, was beheaded by the sailors, who represented the popular feeling of the moment.

With Suffolk fell his colleagues: De Moleyns, Bishop of Chichester, who was put to death in an uproar at Portsmouth; Ascough, Bishop of Salisbury, who was murdered by his own followers; while a third, Lord Saye, was beheaded in the City at the command of Jack Cade, the leader of an insurrection of the men of Kent. This Cade, assuming the name of Mortimer, and with the sympathy, if not at the instigation, of the Duke of York, had led the insurgents to London, and after the defeat of the royal troops at Sevenoaks, 'upon the morne beyng the thirde daye of July and Frydaye, the sayd Capitayn entered again the cytie and causyd the Lorde Saye to be fette from the Tower and ladde unto the Guyldhall where he was araygned before the Mayre and other of the Kynges justices.'* Amongst the justices, and probably because of his office as Recorder, the most prominent was Robert Danvers.† Brought before the Court, Saye pleaded his right

---

* Fabyan's Chronicle.

† William of Worcester (471) says Robert Danvers was Justiciar of the Commission extemporized to try Lord Saye.



DANVERS.

FROM HARLEIAN MS. 4205, TEMP. HENRY VI.

to be judged by his peers, upon hearing which Cade sent a company of his men into the hall, who seized the prisoner, 'brought hym into ye Standarde in Chepe, where on he were halfe shryven, they strake of his hede, and that done pyght up upon a longe pole, and so bare it about with theym.' With reference to this episode Foss writes: 'Jack Cade forced Robert Danvers, the Recorder, to be head of a Commission of oyer and terminer, at which several noblemen and gentlemen were tried for high treason, and some of them were executed.'* That Robert's conduct while acting in this capacity was not displeasing to the Government appears from his being named on a commission in Kent, issued August 1, to try the adherents of Jack Cade, and from his being shortly raised to the Bench as a Judge of the Common Pleas.

Robert continued to sit as judge during the reign of Henry VI., and was, notwithstanding the Lancastrian tendencies of his house, reappointed on the accession of Edward IV. in the year 1461. Moreover, he was one of the noblemen and gentlemen who were chosen for the honour of knighthood on the occasion of the coronation of the Queen.† His relatives, John Say and John Plomer were also amongst those who were knighted—'knights of the sworde' Metcalfe, in his 'Book of Knights,' calls them; but we have not been able to discover any other 'order of the sworde' than a Swedish order founded in 1523, and refounded in 1748.

On Whit-Sunday eve the Queen entered London from Eltham Palace, the Mayor and City authorities meeting her at the foot of Shooters Hill, and conducting her through Southwark to the Tower. That morning Edward kept court at the Tower, where he knighted thirty-two persons, among whom were five judges and six citizens, and behaved with the utmost popularity in order to obtain the favour of the citizens for his Queen. The Queen was carried through the city to her palace of Westminster in a litter borne on long poles like a sedan chair, supported by stately pacing steeds. The new-made knights all rode on this occasion in solemn procession before the Queen's litter, and she was crowned next day with great solemnity in Westminster Abbey.*

---

* 'Biographical History of Judges of England.' Common Pleas.

† Metcalfe's 'Book of Knights.'

About this period Sir Robert's name is constantly found in the fines, and in the Customs and other rolls, exercising his functions as a judge at Westminster. There and elsewhere, in the comparatively serene atmosphere of the law courts, he passed safely through the troubled times of the Wars of the Roses, during the whole continuance of which the ordinary apparatus of justice was uninterrupted; courts were held, and judges went their circuits as usual.† Indeed, it would seem to have been a period of unusual litigation, attended no doubt often with violence. For as property rapidly changed hands, the titles to it became insecure, and the process therefore by which a title was questioned was frequently the violent dispossession of the holder. But still it was to the courts of law that the ultimate appeal was made.

And so Robert Danvers was able to amass wealth and buy lands, and finally, in the year 1467, died, some two years before the temporary success of Warwick and Queen Margaret had drawn the old King from the Tower, and for a short space had seated him once more upon the throne.

The manor which Robert Danvers first bought on his own account was that of Culworth Pynkney, which he bought in the year 1437 from Alice, widow of John Corve, of Culworth. The purchase is recorded in the Close Roll of 16 Henry VI., Part i., M. 10, where we find Alice Corve confirming to Richard Andrews, John Estby, Robert Danvers, and Thomas Haltheyn, the manor of Culworth and all lands and tenements pertaining to it in Culworth, Crowlton, and Coton. The deed was executed at Culworth on May 8 of 16 Henry VI. As we learn from the original deeds, now in the possession of the British Museum, the manor was settled on John and Alice Corve at the time of their marriage by Richard and William Corve, who had purchased it from John Machyn.‡ In the record of the sale the manor is called that of Culworth, but that it was the Culworth-Pynkney manor which Alice Corve sold we learn from the record of another purchase by Robert Danvers a few years later. This was in 30 Henry VI., when, as we learn from Northampton fine No. 51 of that year, Richard Andrews, Thomas Estby, and Thomas Haltheyn bought, for the sum of 300 marks, from John, son and heir of Walter Burnham and Felicia, his wife, the manor of Culworth called Mandeville, and a place in Culworth called Pynknesse. Thus Robert Danvers again united in one ownership the two Culworth manors of Mandeville and Pynkney.* It will be noticed that the name of Robert Danvers does not appear amongst the purchasers of the Mandeville manor, but the omission is explained by the fact that at the time when the matter of the sale came before the courts at Westminster, Sir Robert Danvers was one of the presiding judges; as such his name and that of Sir Peter Ardern appear amongst the justices mentioned in the fine. But in the Close Roll of 32 Henry VI. (M. 13), we find Thomas Haltheyn relinquishing to Robert Danvers, Justice de Banco, his rights in the manor of Culworth Mandeville, and in the advowson of the Church of Culworth. In the year 1442 Robert Danvers bought from the Ardern family (Northampton fine No. 31 of 21 Henry VI.) the manor of Netherbury, in Sulgrave, a parish marching with that of Culworth.† These three manors remained the property of the Danvers family for many generations, those of Culworth till the latter part of the eighteenth century, when, the male line of the elder branch failing, the manor and lands were left by Meriel Danvers, sister of the last baronet, to her cousins Rich, by whom they were subsequently sold to strangers. Of the village and its history we shall have more to say hereafter—suffice it now that the village is in the county of Northampton, pleasantly situated on an eminence about seven miles west of Banbury, about four miles south of Byfield, whence Robert's father had taken his first wife, Alice

---

* Agnes Strickland's 'Lives of Queens of England,' vol. iii., p. 322.

† Bright's 'History of England,' vol. i., p. 351.

‡ Additional MSS. 38817, 38824, 38827, 38828, 38832, 38833, and 38836.

---

* For descent of the manors see Chapter IX.

† By an indenture of May 23, 1445, Robert Arderne and John Halten 'have sworne uppon ye booke that ye said manor is not entailed, and that ye said Robert Arderne nor his heirs shall never trouble nor suffer to be troubled nor vexed ye said Robert Danvers.'—Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 513.

Verney, and about the same distance east of Prestcote, where Robert's brother, Richard Danvers, had his manor house. It is doubtful whether Robert ever lived at Culworth; he was essentially a London man, and probably found all the country air he needed or cared for when on circuit, or in the garden house at Southwark, which we find him buying in the year 1443, in conjunction with his colleague and brother-in-law, John Fray, Chief Baron of the King's Exchequer, William Lee, and Richard Danvers.* In Aske's pedigree of the Danvers family, made in the year 1520, Robert Danvers is called 'of Ipswell,' and he must have held a portion if not the whole of the ancient possession of the family in that village, but we have not been able to learn to which of his heiresses the Ipswell property went at his death—at any rate, Sir Robert was the last 'Danvers of Ipswell.' Besides the purchases already mentioned we find Robert Danvers, in the year 1462,† buying land in Byfield, Charwelton, Aston, in Northampton, and land in Bourton Magna, and in Pykworth,‡ Rutland. He was also lord of the manor of Alcryngton, Oxon, and possessed the advowson of the church there. On February 22, 1466, he presented Father William Oxenford,§ regular canon of the house of Wroxton, to the living. This last property appears to have passed to the Frowyks, for in the year 1497 we find Richard Walker presented to the Church of Alkrynton by Henry Frowyk.§ Sir Robert had also, as we learn from his post-mortem inquisition, two acres of land in Bodicote, Oxon, which he held *in capite;* that he had landed properties in places other than those above mentioned we learn from incidental notices of his name in ancient records, and from the sales of his landed property which were made after his death by his heirs.

Sir Robert Danvers died on April 17, 1467. The post-mortem inquisition made of his property in Northamptonshire is missing, and that of Oxfordshire shows that in that county he only held of the Crown the small property at Bodicote.* His heirs, according to the inquisition, were his daughters—Alice Burnaby, aged 25; Agnes Denys, aged 22; and Joan Danvers, aged 10. Sir Robert's will,† written in Latin (18 Godyn), was made on April 15, 1467, two days before his death, and may be translated as follows:

---

* Catalogue of Ancient Deeds (Record Office), vol. i., C. 1200.

† Fine No. 8, Divers Counties, 2 Edward IV.

‡ Close Roll, 3 Edward IV., m. 24, dors.

§ Bishop of Lincoln's Institutions, Bishop of Lincoln's Registry, Lincoln.

'In the name of God, Amen, I, Robert Danvers, Knt., one of the Justices of the Common Bench of the Lord the King, do make my will in manner following:

'I give my body to be buried in the Church of the Holy Cross in West Smithfield, London, namely, in the chapel of the Blessed Mary there, near to the tomb where the body of Agnes, my wife, now lies buried. I give to Joan, my daughter, towards her marriage, £200 out of my debts.

'The residue of all my goods I place at the disposal of my executors, who are to dispose of them for my soul as they shall think best.

'As executors of this my will I appoint Lady Agnes Fray, widow (his sister), Richard Danvers, my brother, and George Burnaby (his son-in-law), and I ordain Master Simon Buryton, Confessor of the Household (hospicii) of the Lord the King, to be supervisor thereof.

'I will that Henry Danvers, my son, have all my lands and tenements.

'Witnesses: John Leynam, Knt. and Alderman of the City of London, William Baron, Esq., James John Chaplain, and Richard Padworth, scriptor, London.'

Robert Danvers desires in his will that he may be buried near his wife Agnes in the Church of the Holy Cross in West Smithfield—the church now known as St. Bartholomew's the Less—and Stowe in his annals mentions the tomb, and that

---

* P. M. Inquis., No. 46 of 7 Edward IV.

† As this is the first will of the family to which we have had occasion to refer, it may be as well to explain that the registered copies of wills are at Somerset House in huge folios, each of which has a name, usually that of the testator whose will was the first entered in the volume. The leaves are not paged, but folio'd, each folio containing several leaves. 'Godyn 18,' as above, means that Sir Robert's will is to be found amongst those copied into folio 18 of the volume named 'Godyn.'

Agnes was the daughter of Sir Richard Delabar.* She was the widow of William Herle, of Stoke-Blys, Hereford, and must have been married to Sir Robert prior to the year 1441, as their eldest daughter was aged twenty-five and more when her father died in the year 1467.†

Sir Robert's second wife was Katherine, widow of William Fetiplace, sister to Drew Barentyne, of Great Haseley, Oxon. In many of the genealogies of the family she is spoken of as a daughter of Fetiplace, but the Berkshire Visitations and other documents‡ afford conclusive evidence that her maiden name was Barentyne.§ In the year 1456 (35 Henry VI.), we have Robert Danvers in a Bucks fine, which is evidently made by way of settlement of the manor of Doorton for life upon his wife Katherine, who was therefore the mother of Sir Robert's youngest daughter. Matthew Haye and John Cotesmore are associated with her in the fine; the latter was Katherine's brother-in-law. By his first wife Sir Robert had a son, Henry, and two daughters, Alice and Agnes. Henry, the only son, seems to have been of age when his father died, and if so must have been the son of the first wife. This is the opinion of the early genealogists of the family, and his father wills to him his lands and tenements without appointing a guardian. Moreover, two years previously, we find a release of land in Sulgrave to Sir Robert and his son Henry (Add. Charter 38,845). Henry died shortly after his father, between the date of Sir Robert's will and that of the post-mortem inquisition.

---

* The Delabars, Barres, or De-la-Beres, were a famous old Herefordshire family, from a stock which about the period of the Conquest came from La Barre in the Cotentin. Cf. C. J. Robinson's 'Mansions and Houses of Herefordshire;' also Harleian MSS. 1,140 and 1,149, and Duchess of Cleveland's Battle Abbey Roll. Baker, in the pedigree of the Danvers family, 'History of Northampton,' 1, p. 604, makes Agnes Quatermayn the wife of Robert Danvers, but does not give any authority for his statement, nor have we been able to find such; while there is ample evidence that Sir Robert's first wife was Agnes Delabar.

† Harleian MS. 1,556, f. 126*b*, Harleian MS. 1,097, f. 6, and Harleian MS. 4,204, f. 78*b*, evidence that Sir Robert's wife was the daughter of Delabar and widow of Horle (*sic*). In the Visitation of Hereford we find corroboration, William Herle, in the pedigree of that family, marrying Agnes, daughter of Sir Richard Delabar. Aske, in his pedigree of the family, states the marriage as above, as also does the middle sixteenth century roll, Harleian, P. 10. Cf. Heralds' College MSS., Vincent 56, p. 221, Robert Danvers and his family.

‡ Visitation of Berks, Harleian MS. 1,139, fs. 109 and 78, and MS. 1,532, f. 40. T. W. Weare's 'Great Haseley Church,' second edition, 1848. See also will of Drugo Barentyne, father of Katherine, amongst 'Ancient Lincoln Wills,' published in 1888 by Mr. A. Gibbons at Lincoln. The will mentions amongst others his son Drugo, and his daughter Katherine married to William Fetiplace, and Margaret married to John Cotysmore.

§ Barentynes; see T. W. Weare's 'Great Haseley Church;' also 'Journal of Oxon Archæological Society,' 1874; also Leland's 'Itinerary;' Aske in vol. i. of 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.;' and Clarke's 'Hundred of Wantage.'

By his second wife Sir Robert Danvers had a daughter, Joan, who was ten years old at the time of her father's death. Some of the genealogists give Sir Robert a fourth daughter, Sybil, but there is no mention of her in either will or inquisition, and we have evidence* that she was his step-daughter, child of William Fetiplace and Katherine Barentyn. Harleian MS. 1,532, p. 40, and Harleian MS. 1139, p. 109, both copies of the Visitation of Berks of 1566, state that William and Katherine Fetiplace had two daughters, Anne and Sybil, of whom Anne married Dykes and Sybil married Umpton.

Alice, Sir Robert's eldest daughter, married George Burnaby,† of Watford, who was one of Sir Robert's executors.

Agnes, the second daughter, married Sir Walter Denys,‡ son of Morrys Denys, by his first wife Katherine, daughter of Sir Edward Stradling, and had by him three sons and three daughters. One of the sons, Sir William, married the Lady Anne, daughter of William, Marquis of Barkley, by whom he had a large family.

---

* See note §, p. 114.

† The Burnabys were an old Northampton family descended from Eustace Arden, who held the manor of Watford *temp.* Henry II. Sara, granddaughter of Eustace, one of four sisters, married John Burnaby, from whom was descended George Burnaby, who died 7 Henry VI. It was his grandson who married Alice Danvers. See Harleian Society's vol. xii., Visitation of Warwick of the year 1619, for their descendants; Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604; and Aske in 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 324.

‡ Harleian Society's publications, vol. i.; Baker, and Aske as above.

Joan, the third daughter, married Sir Henry Frowyke,* of the old Middlesex family of that name.

The life of Richard Danvers of Prestcote was not so eventful as that of his brother, Sir Robert, but has its special interest, as he is in the direct line of descent of the present family, and was father of the Danvers who was the first member of the family to make Culworth his home. Yet the life of Richard Danvers was not that of the mere country squire; like his father and his brethren, he was an energetic man of business, a man the key to whose life's work may be found in a paragraph of Dr. Bright's history, which runs as follows (vol. i., p. 351):

'Again, although the loss of France and the exclusive attention to home politics greatly diminished the national strength upon the sea, trade does not appear to have been seriously damaged. At all events, it was so kept alive that upon the establishment of peace it revived with fresh vigour; and we are told that Edward IV. himself engaged in the pursuit. This trait is characteristic not only of the man, but of the time. The pursuit of trade had risen greatly in estimation; great traders had become nobles, and Suffolk, the Prime Minister, was an example of the height to which such families might rise.'

That Richard was officially connected with trade we know, for he was a Comptroller of Customs, and as Wotton† tells us that he acquired great wealth, we must presume that he did so in the way of trade, for he did not, like his father and grandfather, marry a fortune.

The first notice that we have of him is in the Close Roll of 18 Henry VI., when we find him, in conjunction with his father, John Danvers, buying an angular tenement 'in a new street of Dedington,' a town on the Oxford road a few miles south of Banbury. In the year 1449 we find John Dene,* of Shutford, a village near Eppewell, releasing to Richard Danvers his lands in Shutford, Eppewell, and in Clifton, a village a little to the east of Dedington. The same year Richard was a member of two Parliaments, sitting in the first for the borough of Horsham, in Sussex, and in the second for the borough of Shaftesbury, in Dorset. In neither of those counties had the Danvers family at the time lands or material interests, and Richard's election is an illustration of the fact that 'the representation of the boroughs had at the time become a mere mockery. Great nobles, neighbouring landowners, the Crown itself, seized on the boroughs as their prey and dictated the choice of their representatives.'† In all probability De Moleyns, Bishop of Chichester, and Ascough, Bishop of Salisbury, two of Suffolk's colleagues in the ministry, were the promoters of Richard's representation of boroughs which were within their respective dioceses. The first Parliament of the year was presided over by John Stafford, Chancellor, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, and received a message from the Duke of Somerset, the King's lieutenant in France, urgently demanding reinforcements as the French were preparing to invade Normandy. Reinforcements were sent, but most of them were cut off, and the Duke was obliged to relinquish Caen, and, in short, all Normandy, thirty years after its conquest by Henry V.

---

* The Frowykes were seated for some generations at South Mimms (cf. 'History of South Mimms,' by the Rev. F. C. Cass, M.A., 1877), which, with Enfield, forms the most northern part of Middlesex. In the parish church is the Frowyke chapel, or chantry, with the fine altar tomb of one of the family. A moated site on the edge of Hadley Green is supposed to have been that of the Frowyke manor house. Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604; and Aske in 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 324; also Harleian MSS. 1,177, p. 135, and No. 1,521, p. 62*b*.

† Wotton's 'Baronetage,' vol. i., p. 500.

The next Parliament, that of November, was a very stormy one. After many adjournments which the Queen contrived with a view to saving Suffolk from the dangers which menaced him, both houses met in January, 1450, and having first insisted upon the dismissal of the Chancellor, Stafford, impeached the Duke of Suffolk, and procured the sentence of banishment, which was speedily terminated by his execution on his way to France.

When we next hear of Richard Danvers, he holds the office of Collector of Customs at Southampton, an office which he probably owed to the intercession of his brother, Robert, whose name constantly appears in the Customs Rolls of the period as trying revenue cases. Collins, in his 'Baronetage,' says that Richard was Comptroller of Customs in London, and it is quite probable that he was so; the ancient rolls still preserved testify to his office at Southampton.* Though London was the chief port of England at this period, Southampton was the busiest southern harbour. Its limits extended along the coast from Portsmouth to Weymouth, and it was the great emporium for imported wines and miscellaneous wares, and was the chief port of passage to France. Here, too, came annually 'the Venetian fleet, for English vessels did not even yet venture to the Mediterranean, and the stores of the southern European countries and the treasures of the East came to us through the agency of Venice. Laden with silks, satins, fine damasks, cottons, and other then costly garments, together with rare Eastern spices and precious stones, camphor and saffron, this fleet sailed slowly along the shores of the Mediterranean, trading at the ports of Italy, South France and Spain, till it passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, and at length came up the Channel and reached our southern ports. When the fleet reached the Downs it broke up for a time, some vessels putting into Sandwich and Rye and other towns, and a large number stopping at Southampton.'†

---

* Magdalen College, 4A, Clifton and Dedington.

† Green's 'Short History,' edition 1889, p. 272.

The local officer of the customs was originally called the 'Customer;' he was the Custos, or keeper of the King's wools. And he not only customed the merchant's wool, but on occasion he seized the whole of it, and disposed of it in order that the King's agents should supply the ready money which the necessities of the Crown might compel it to raise by resorting to obsolete prerogatives. The Custos subsequently became the collector, of whom, as a rule, there were two at each port, and with them a comptroller. These officials were drawn from the educated middle class, and so responsible was the post held by them, and so delicate the duties which they had to perform, that their appointment was notified by the King's letters patent.*

---

* L. T. R., Customs Enrolled Accounts, 36-38 Henry VI.

† Gibbin's 'Industrial History of England,' p. 92.

Richard Danvers married, about the year 1445 (as we judge from his eldest son's age, forty years and upwards in 1488), Elizabeth, daughter of John Langston, of Caversfield, Bucks, while his half-sister, Amys, married his wife's brother, John Langston. Richard and Elizabeth had two sons, Richard and John, and two daughters, Margery and Elizabeth, who all survived them. We shall return presently to the Langston family and Caversfield. Suffice it now that Caversfield is a small outlying parish of Bucks, some two miles north of Bicester, where was the priory in which, as we learn from his will, Richard Danvers had 'a small place in which he used to dwell.' Probably this was a cell within the priory buildings which Richard used for occasional retreats into religion, and in which possibly he found shelter when he and his family were harassed by their Yorkist foes. The house, too, was one which, in addition to the regular inmates, admitted to the fraternity its benefactors and other persons.† Such persons took an oath to bear good will to the house, to enter it if they entered religion, to make an annual payment, and to defend the house from all evildoers. In return they were mentioned in the prayers of the brethren, and had license of burial in the church or cemetery.

In 1444 we find‡ Richard Danvers, in conjunction with his brother, Robert, and his brother-in-law, John Fray, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, buying a large garden with ponds, etc., in Southwark. Whether this was a joint purchase, or whether Richard was only a trustee for his brother, does not appear, but in 1531§ is a record of the gift of what was probably the same property; it is described as Banaster's garden, containing three acres and a gate-house and cottages, with walls, hedges, ditches, wharves and steps to the garden, in the parish of St. Margaret's, Southwark, which formerly belonged to the Danvers family. In the time of Richard Danvers, 'Long Southwark' was the street leading from old London Bridge south, to St. Margaret's Hill, where was the parish church of St. Margaret's. Near the bank of the river, to the west of the street, was Winchester House, founded about 1107 by Bishop Walter Giffard, with its gardens, wharf, and water stairs, occupying a considerable part of the river bank near the bridge. Here also were Rochester House and Waverley House, seats of the Bishops of Rochester and the Abbot of Waverley, and probably it was the residence in the locality of William Waynflete, their patron, which led to the purchase of a house and garden there by the Danvers family. Here lived, from 1447 to 1486, William Waynflete, the princely Bishop of Winchester, long time Chancellor of the Realm; and no doubt members of the Danvers family took a part in the ceremonials and processions which the good Bishop much affected. Thus, in the year 1452 we find him ordering the clergy of Southwark to assemble at 8 a.m., and to go in solemn procession, by St. Margaret's Church, as far as the monastery of Bermondsey, for the welfare of the Church and for the King's prosperity. And again in 1467, because of the fatal distemper which raged in Southwark, which he deemed to be on account of the sins of the people, the Bishop orders public processions with prayers and liturgies as a remedy and as a warning. In St. Margaret's Church the Bishop met Jack Cade on his way into London, and by his astuteness managed to loosen the hold of Cade upon his followers, and to bring to naught the formidable outbreak.*

---

* Hubert Hall's 'History of the Customs Revenue in England.' London, 1885.

† Blomfield's 'History of Deanery of Bicester,' Part ii., p. 128.

‡ Record Office Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, vol. i., C. 1200.

§ Historical Commission Series, vol. x., Record Office numbering, p. 131.

Another purchase of Richard Danvers takes us across the river to an interesting part of old Westminster. There, in the year 1464, he bought of Richard Werffth† three tenements, two which are 'in King's Street before the King's Chappel of St. Stephen's,' and one also in Westminster which is called 'the Kynges Hede.' Together with these tenements in Westminster, Richard bought of Werffth lands in Pinner and Harrow. King Street, Westminster, ran very much in the same line as the present street of the name, and was a famous thoroughfare in the days of Edward IV., the only way of access from Charing Cross to Westminster Abbey and Palace, and to the Houses of Parliament. On the north the street began on the confines of the Palace of Whitehall, and there, near where Downing Street now is, Henry VIII. added an embattled gateway. At its south end the street terminated in a gate-house, through which it opened into the sanctuary of Westminster. The street was crossed by a stream, which formed the northern boundary of Thorney Island. Across this stream a bridge was thrown. Leading eastwards from the main line of the street was an offshoot, which opened into New Palace Yard, near to where the carriage entrance now is. Anyone passing down this portion of King Street would see a part of St. Stephen's Chapel, projecting, as it were, from the eastern side of Westminster Hall, and Richard's purchase must have stood at or near the corner of Palace Yard, and so might be described as 'before the King's Chappel of St. Stephen's.' King Street* was better inhabited than built, the houses being generally after the old way, with timber and plaster, and the street somewhat narrow, 'which causeth stoppage, for it is a very great thoroughfare.' 'For the accommodation of such as came to town in the terms, there stood in King Street some good inns for their reception, and not a few taverns'—one of these may have been 'the Kynges Hede,' which Richard Danvers bought, or it may have been a rather famous tavern of the name which stood near the present site of Marlborough House.

---

* Rendle's 'Old Southwark and its People.' Southwark, 1878.

† Close Roll, 4 Edward IV., M. 12, dors., and Close Roll, 5 Edward IV. M. 28, dors.

And now we come to the purchase by Richard Danvers of the manors of Culworth and Sulgrave. It will be remembered that when Robert Danvers died he left by will as his heir his son Henry, and that he had three daughters, of whom the two eldest were married, while the third, Joan, was a child of ten years old. When Henry died, the three sisters became co-heiresses of his estates. Now, the husbands, Denys and Burnaby, had their own estates, and probably none of the daughters cared for Culworth and Sulgrave, where, possibly, they had never lived, while the joint possession must have been an inconvenient arrangement; no doubt, therefore, they were glad to accept their uncle's offer to buy the manors. And so we find* Richard Danvers buying of Walter Denys and his wife Agnes their share of the manors and lands which were formerly those of Robert and John Danvers, in Culworth, Sulgrave, Thorpe Mandeville, Charwelton, Grymsby, Byfield, Staverton, Aston in the Walls, in Northampton, in Pykworth Rutland, and in Alrynton Lee, Adderbury, Bourton Magna and Parva, Hardwyk, Nethrop and Bloxham in Oxon, in Dorsett in Warwick, and in Tynghurst in Berks; and at the same time buying the share in the same manors and lands of George Burnaby and his wife Alice. It may be noticed that, in the Close Roll, Richard Dennys, who it appears from the pedigree of that family was a brother of Sir Walter's, is joined with him in the release of the property to Richard Danvers, and that John Langston and Richard Quartermayne, with their man of business, Thomas Haltheyn, are joined with Richard in the purchase, which is, however, on behalf of the latter and his heirs. Joan, the third daughter of Sir Robert, was not married at this time, 1472, but within the next two years she must have married Henry Frowyk, as in the year 1474 we find Henry Frowyk and his wife Joan releasing and confirming to Richard Danvers, John Langston, and John Norys, their rights in lands, etc., in Culworth, Sulgrave and other places, which were those of Robert Danvers.

---

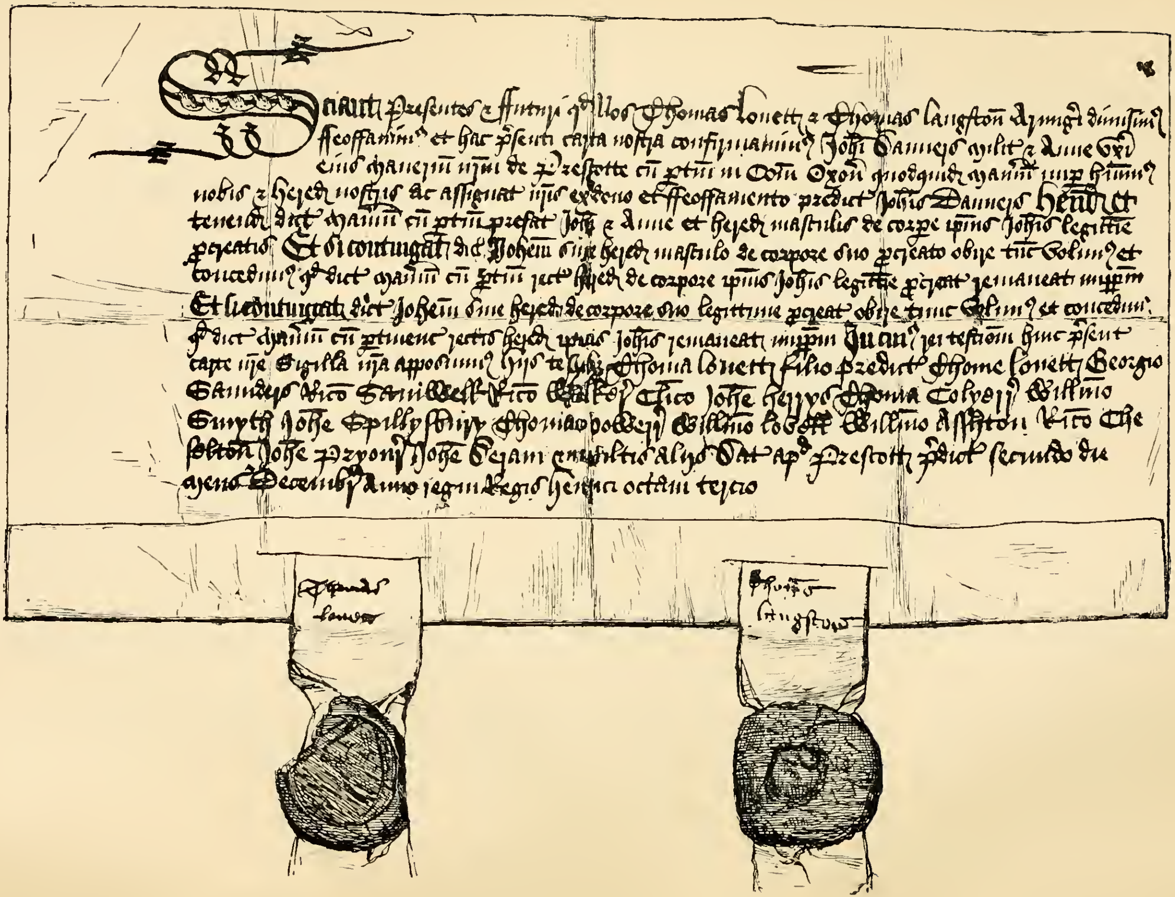
* See Smith's 'Antiquities of Westminster,' and Strype's edition of Stowe's 'Survey of London,' vol. ii., p. 62.

Nine years after the completion of the purchase we find, in the year 1485 (September 20, 3 Richard III.), Richard Danvers† enfeoffing Thomas Danvers, of Waterstock, Thomas Englefield, Thomas Langston and others of the Culworth and Sulgrave manors, and this, no doubt, with a view to making them over to his second son, John. This he accomplished in

---

* Close Roll, 12 Edward IV., M.x. Fine No. 22 of 9 Edward IV., Northampton. Fine No. 89, Northampton, of 12 Edward IV. Fine No. 8 of 2 Edward IV. See also Additional Charters (B.M.), Nos. 38,849 to 38,865, which record the transactions between Richard Danvers and the heirs of his brother Robert.

† Additional Charters 38,866 and 38,869; also Inquis. P.M. of Richard Danvers the elder. Additional Charters (B.M.) 38,861-4.



Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Thomas Lovett et Thomas Langton Armigeri dimisimus
feoffavimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Johanni Daunce militi et Anne uxori
eius manerium nostrum de Prescotte cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Oxon quod quidem manerium nuper habuimus
nobis et heredibus nostris ac assignatis nostris ex dono et feoffamento predicti Johannis Daunce Habendum et
tenendum dictum manerium cum pertinentiis prefatis Johanni et Anne et heredibus masculis de corpore ipsius Johannis legittime
procreatis Et si contingat dictum Johannem sine heredibus masculis de corpore suo procreato obire tunc volumus et
concedimus quod dictum manerium cum pertinentiis rectis heredibus de corpore ipsius Johannis legittime procreatis remaneat imperpetuum
Et si contingat dictum Johannem sine heredibus de corpore suo legittime procreatis obire tunc volumus et concedimus
quod dictum manerium cum pertinentiis rectis heredibus ipsius Johannis remaneat imperpetuum In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti
carte nostre sigilla nostra apposuimus Hiis testibus Thoma Lovett filio predicti Thome Lovett Georgio
Saunders Ricardo Samwell Ricardo Walker Clerico Johanne Heyns Thoma Colyer Willelmo
Smyth Johanne Spillysbury Thoma Powell Willelmo Lovett Willelmo Asshton Ricardo Ashe
felton Johanne Pyron Johanne Regan cum multis aliis Datum apud Prescott predictam secundo die
mensis Decembris Anno regni Regis Henrici octavi tercio

Thomas Lovett

Thomas Langton

the year 1488, when we find his feoffees in a deed dated at Culworth on the Feast of St. James the Apostle (July 25), the third year of the reign of Henry VII., confirming to John Danvers and his wife Anne the manors in question. Should John Danvers and his wife die leaving no children, the manors and lands were to pass to John's brother Richard and his children, and failing them to the right heirs of Richard Danvers, father of John and Richard.

Therefore, in his later years, Richard Danvers was seated at Prestcote with large landed property in the neighbourhood, and the Patent Rolls of Edward IV. and Richard III. show that he was a Justice of the Peace in the counties of Oxford and Hampshire. In the Exchequer Plea Roll of the 9 Edward IV. is record of a protracted action at law between him and the Sheriff of Oxfordshire regarding a trespass which Danvers alleged the Sheriff's officers had committed on his land at Prestcote. His will shows that he interested himself in the works of restoration of the churches in the neighbourhood, and more especially in the work going on at Cropredy Church, in aid of which he left by will 100 shillings. He lived to see the union of the white and red roses, which was brought about in the year 1486 by the marriage of Elizabeth of York with Henry VII., and died three years after, in February, 1489. No directions regarding his burial are given in his will, and one would have no doubt but that he was laid beside his wife in Cropredy Church were it not for a curious record which was formerly upon the wall of Bicester Church,* and the mention in Richard's will of the place in Bicester Priory where he was used to rest. The record was a shield, which bore the Danvers (Brancestre) arms—quarterly 1 and 4 arg. on a bend gules, 3 martlets or in chief crescent for difference, 2 and 3 gules, two bars arg. in chief three bucks' heads embossed or, with an inscription above, 'a beriall shocken.' If this was indeed the record of the burial of Richard Danvers in the church, and he is the only member of the family of whose connection with Bicester there is any record, why was the burial 'shocken,' and why should any burial be so described?

---

* It was there in 1574, and for many years after; but how many years previously is not known.

A translation of Richard's will (Milles 32) is attached; the original is in Latin, and is mainly occupied with bequests to various religious purposes. The executors were his second son, John Danvers, and his son-in-law, Thomas Englefield.

Will of Richard Danvers.

In the name of God, Amen. The 27th day of January 1488 (4 H. VII.) I Richard Danvers of Prescote in Co. Oxford gent. do make my last will as follows:

I give to John Henyngham Knt. £10 because I sold to him at too high a price (nimis care) a certain weight of wax called Polyn wax.

I give to the works of the body or nave of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Mary of Lincoln 100s.

To Sir Henry Sergeantson chaplain to pray for my soul I give 20s., and to Sir Randle (Ranulpho) chaplain of the Chapel of St. Frethmund 20s. to pray for my soul.

I give 100s. to the works of the body or nave of the prebend Church of Copredy; 20s. towards the repair of the Chapel of St. Fremund where his shrine is situated; 100s. to the works of the body or nave of the parish Church of Culworth; 20 to the work of the Church of Claydon in the parish of Croperdy; 20s. to the works of the Church of Molington; 20 to the works of the Church of Wardinton, and 20s. towards the works of the Chapel of Burton. To the Prior and Convent of Clatcote I give 100s. to pray for my soul; to the Prior and Convent of Wroxton £10; to the Prior and Convent of Osney 20 marks; to the Prior and Convent of the House or Priory of Shene (Carthusian Order) £10 towards the repair of the said Priory, to be expended according to the discretion of Henry Tracy one of the monks there; and 5 marks towards the repair of a small place (placee) where I used to dwell within the Priory of Byrcester.

The residue of all my goods I bequeath to my Executors Thomas Englefield and John Danvers my son that they may dispose of the same for my soul and for the souls of my relations and friends and for the souls of all the faithful deceased.

Proved at Lambeth the 20th day of February of the year abovesaid.

The post-mortem inquisitions (29 and 68 of 5 Henry VII.) were taken in Oxfordshire and Northampton; they record that Richard Danvers died on February 14 of 4 Henry VII. (1489, N.S.), and that on the day of his death he was seized of the manor of Prestcote, which he held of the Bishop of Lincoln, and of the manors of Culworth and of Netherbury Sulgrave, which latter he held of the honor of Pynkeny, conjointly with John Langston, Thomas Englefield, Thomas Danvers and Thomas Langston, and had enfeoffed them with John Danvers his son, of those manors. The inquisitions say that Richard's heir was his son Richard, and that he was aged forty years and upwards at the time of his father's death.

*Richard Danvers married Elizabeth, daughter of John Langston of Caversfield, and Richard's half-sister Amys married John Langston, Elizabeth's brother. The Langstons, who are not to be confounded with the North Country Langtons, were seated at Caversfield in the time of Henry V., holding their lands partly of the Priory of Bicester and partly in their own right. Browne Willis (p. 164) says that they bought the manor about the year 1386. On the dissolution of the priory they received, by a grant from the Crown, the lands which they had previously held as tenants of the house. About the year 1374† John Langston bought the village of Tusmere and the advowson of the church from the heirs of Sir Roger de Cotesford, and this John Langston presented to Tusmere Church in the year 1419 and again in the years 1425 and 1434.‡ He died in the year 1435 (Inquis. P.M. No. 38, 13 Henry VI., John Langston de Caresfield. This inquisition is now 'deest'). It was probably this man's

---

* This account of the Langston Family, as far as page 131, para. 3, may be considered a note.

† Rev. J. C. Blomfield's 'History of Deanery of Bicester,' Part iii., p. 62, *et seq.*

‡ Browne Willis's 'Hundred of Buckingham' and Dunkin's 'Oxfordshire,' vol. i., p. 197.

father, another John de Langeston, who is mentioned in a Bicester deed dated in the year 1352 (Kennett).

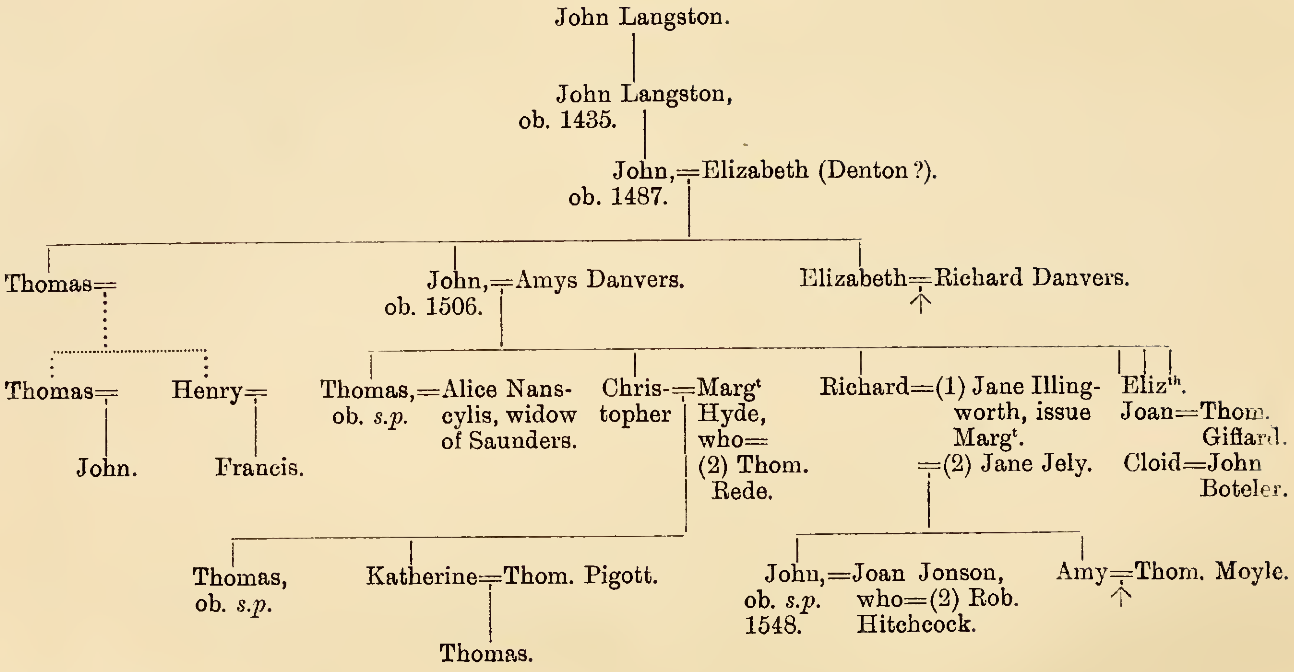
The John Langston* who died in 1435 was followed by another John Langston, who presented to Tusmere Church in the years 1435, 1455, 1458, 1462, and 1487. In the year 1471 he was Sheriff of Oxfordshire. According to Browne Willis (p. 164), he died in the year 1487 (Inquis. P. M. of 3 Henry VII.), and Browne Willis thinks he married a Denton and was with her buried in the altar-tomb on the north side of the altar of Caversfield Church. We shall, however, find reason to believe that, as regards the tomb, Willis was mistaken. His son was the John Langston who married Amys Danvers. Aske,† who made his pedigree of the Danvers family in the year 1520, and evidently was well acquainted with its members and with their kinsmen, the Langstons, tells us that Amys, second sister to Sir Thomas Danvers, married John Langston of Caversfield, and that they had three sons and two daughters who were married and seventeen sons and daughters who died unmarried. Richard, the eldest son, married, first, Jane Illingworth, and they had a daughter, Margery, not married when Aske wrote. Richard Langston married as his second wife Jane, daughter of Andrew Jely of Spalding, and they had a son John and a daughter Annes, both at this time unmarried. Thomas Langston, Richard's second brother, married Alice, daughter of Nanscylis, and they had no issue. The third son, Christopher, married Margaret, daughter of John Hyde of Denchworth, and they had issue a son, Thomas, and a daughter Katherine. Cloid, sister to Richard Langston, married John Boteler of Badmynton, and had issue. Jane, sister to Cloid, married Thomas Giffard, son and heir of John Giffard, Lord of Twyford, and had issue. Richard Langston died in the year 1525. His post-mortem inquisitions (Nos. 31 and 46 of 18 Henry VIII.) and an indenture in the Close Roll of 1 Henry VIII. (No. 17 in margin of roll) confirm Aske's account of his family.

---

* Lipscumb's 'Bucks,' vol. ii., p. 594; Kennett's 'Parochial Antiquities,' vol. ii., pp. 219 and 240.

† 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i.

LANGSTON OF CAVERSFIELD.


John Langston.
John Langston, ob. 1435.
John, ob. 1487.=Elizabeth (Denton ?).
Thomas=
John, ob. 1506.=Amys Danvers.
Elizabeth=Richard Danvers.
Thomas=
John.
Henry=
Francis.
Thomas, ob. s.p.=Alice Nanscylis, widow of Saunders.
Christopher=Marg^{t} Hyde, who=(2) Thom. Rede.
Richard=(1) Jane Illingworth, issue Marg^{t}.
=(2) Jane Jely.
Elizth.
Joan=Thom. Giffard.
Cloid=John Boteler.
Thomas, ob. s.p.
Katherine=Thom. Pigott.
Thomas.
John, ob. s.p. 1548.=Joan Jonson, who=(2) Rob. Hitchcock.
Amy=Thom. Moyle.

To face p. 127.]

So much for Aske's history. Now to return to the John Langston* who married Amys Danvers. It is clear that he had a brother Thomas, who was probably his elder brother, as it was he who presented to the Church of Tusmere (in the years 1495 and 1511). The brothers were trustees to Richard Danvers' estate in the year 1489, and they were joint Sheriffs of Oxfordshire in the year 1496. We do not know when Thomas died, but his brother John, as we learn from the inscription on his tomb, died in the year 1506,† and with his wife Amys, or Amicia, was buried in Caversfield Church.

Of John and Amicia's numerous family only five (six?) survived them—three sons,‡ Thomas, Richard, Christopher, and two (three?) daughters, Elizabeth, Joan (and Cloid?).

Thomas married Alice, widow of Thomas Saunders, and left no issue (Browne Willis). Richard married twice—first, Jane Illingworth, by whom he had a daughter, Margery; and secondly, Jane Jely, by whom he had a son, John—ten years of age at the time of his father's death—and a daughter, Amy. Christopher, the third son, had by his wife, Margaret Hyde, a son, Thomas — dead in the year 1524 — and a daughter, Katherine,§ who married Thomas Piggott of Doddershall. Richard died in the year 1525. His post-mortem inquisition‖ was taken at Islyppe in Oxon, June 19, 18 Henry VIII. (1526). The inquisition sets forth that Richard Langston died December 30 of the past year, and that his son and heir is John Langston, aged ten years and more. The inquisition includes a portion of Richard's will, in which he calls himself Richard Langston of London; in it he mentions his wife Joane, and to her leaves for her life his lands and tenements, excepting some of the land appertaining to the manor of Caversfield which his daughter Amy is to have for herself and her heirs.

---

* In the City of London Hustings Roll of 1484, John Newport sells to John Langston a tenement in St. Stephen's, Walbrook.

† Exchequer Escheats, series 2, file 5. John Langston died September 9, 1506. His heir is his son Richard, aged 40 and upwards.

‡ Aske's pedigree of the Danvers family and Harleian MS., 1,553, f. 94*b*.

§ Blomfield's 'Deanery of Bicester,' Part iii., p. 62, *et seq*.

‖ Post-mortem Inquis., 18 Henry VIII., Nos. 31 and 46, and Close Roll of 1 Henry VIII. Also Dunkin's 'Oxfordshire,' vol. i., p. 197.

On his wife's death all his lands, including the manor of Buckenhall, Oxon, and its appurtenances; the manor or township of Danefeld in Bucks, and its appurtenances; lands in Bicester, Bucknell, Dunstall, Sulthorne, Langton, Fryngford, King's Sutton, are to pass to his son John Langston, with remainder to his daughter Amy.

John, Richard's son, married Joane, daughter of Thomas Jonson of Caversfield (Harleian MS. 1,553, p. 94*b*). He died in the year 1548, leaving no issue, and the estates passed to Thomas Moyle, who had married Amy, his sister and heiress.

Three wills of the family are on record at Somerset House, and of these the earliest is that of John Langston (12 Adeane), made on February 16, 1499 (N.S. 1500), prior to the time when the law allowed a man to will his rights in landed property, and this will, therefore, arranges only for the disposal of the personal property for pious uses. To Almighty God and the Blessed Mary he commits the care of his soul, and leaves bequests to the Cathedral Church of Lincoln and to the churches of Caversfield, Champion, Preston, Lancton, Buknell, Amersden, and to the poor of Caversfield. He desires that he may be buried in the chancel or chantry (in cancelle) of the Blessed St. Lawrence of Caversfield, and that Masses be said in the church for his soul and for that of his wife, and for the souls of John and Elizabeth Langston (probably his father and mother) and for the souls of all the faithful. His wife is dead. His executor is his son Thomas, by whom the will was proved on October 15, 1506.

The monumental brass of this John Langston and of his wife Amys, or Amicia, Danvers was formerly in Caversfield Church, but where exactly it was originally laid cannot now be determined. On a gravestone were the effigies in brass of a man in armour, and of a woman on his left hand. Above his head was a shield bearing the Langston arms, and above hers a shield bearing the arms of Langston quartering (or impaling) Brancestre for Danvers. Beneath them the inscription:

'O Pater excelse miserere precor miserere Johannes Langston et conjugis Amicie atque soboles qui te in terris coluere hosque precor votis jungere cœlicolis.'

Round the verge of the stone (so Anthony Wood saw it—Wood MS., E. 1, p. 179, Bodleian) another inscription:

> 'Orate pro animabus Johannis Langston armigeri et Amicie consortis sue qui quidem Johannes obiit nono die Septembris Anno Domini MCCCCCVJ. quorum animabus propitietur Deus.'

Anthony Wood does not mention the groups of children, twelve sons beneath the man and ten daughters beneath the woman's feet, which Browne Willis notices. Browne Willis, too, says that the woman's shield bore Langston 'impaling' her arms. As we shall presently see, there is reason to believe that the brasses in Caversfield Church, even prior to the recent restoration, had been removed from their original places, and that parts of the brasses, even in Anthony Wood's time, may have changed places.

The second of these Langston wills is that of Thomas Langston of Stowe (34 Bodfelde), made on February 20, 1524, and proved June 28 of the same year. This is the Thomas Langston, son of John Langston and Amicia Danvers, who, so Aske tells us, married Alice Nancylis and left no issue. Thomas commits his soul to Almighty God and our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the company of heaven. He desires that his body may be buried in Stowe Church. He mentions his brother, Richard Langston; his sister, Joane Giffard;* his cousins, Oliver and John Wellysborne and Thomas Rede; Christopher Westcott; and his cousin Katherine, daughter of his deceased brother, Christopher Langston, whose son Thomas is dead. Katherine's mother Margaret Rede, and her uncle William Hyde, are alive, and are to be her guardians till she is eighteen years of age, or till she marries, which must be with their consent. To Katherine, Thomas leaves all his lands and tenements, with remainder to his cousin, John Wellysborne, and failing him to the right heirs of the testator. The will entirely confirms Aske's account of the family which was written in the year 1520; but in the interval between this and the will, John Hyde of Denchworth, Margaret Langston's first husband, died and Margaret married Thomas Rede.

As regards cousin John Wellysborne, we learn from Ashmole (Ashmole's 'Berks,' edition of 1723, vol. iii., p. 299) that Thomas Wellysborne married Margery, daughter of Thomas Poure of Blechingden, whose wife was Elizabeth Danvers, sister to Amicia Langston. They had a daughter Lucy, who married Hyde of Stokelyne, Oxon, and a son, Oliver Wellysborne. Oliver had, amongst other children, a son John, and these are the cousins Oliver and John Wellysborne of the will. Thomas Langston was first cousin once removed to Oliver. The name of Thomas Saunders, deceased, is mentioned more than once in the will of Thomas Langston, and Browne Willis tells us, in his 'History of Buckingham Hundred' (p. 280), that Thomas Saunders died in the year 1493, and that Thomas Langston married his widow. Browne Willis also tells us (p. 281) that under a south window of Stowe Church was an ancient gray marble in memory of Thomas Langston and his wife; their effigies and part of the inscription in his time torn away.

---

* Giffard pedigree, Lipscumb's 'Bucks,' vol. iii., p. 131.

The third will is that of John Langston of Caversfield, made August 24, 1548; proved October 28 of the same year. This is John, the son of Richard Langston of Caversfield, nephew to Thomas of the preceding will. He desires that he may be buried on the north side of the parish church of Caversfield, beside the high altar, before the image of St. Lawrence, where he wills a tomb to be made within the wall, and his arms to be wrought in stone coloured and gilded, and 'my herst over it to be made with barres of iron to be set fast in the wall,' tapers upon the herst (hearse) to the number of seven, each of a pound weight of wax, and to be renewed yearly.

John Langston mentions in the will his manor house and parsonage of Caversfield. He mentions also his kinsman, John Langston, his godson Thomas Denton, and his sister Margaret Roger. His wife, Jane Langston, is alive, and to her he leaves for her life all his rents and lands, and makes her his executrix, Mr. Charles Pigott to be her assistant in carrying out his will. After his wife's decease the manor of Caversfield to pass to Thomas Pigott the younger and the heirs of his body, and after his wife's decease the manor of Buckinghamhull and the warren to Thomas Moyle (married to John's sister, Amy) and the heirs of his body, and in default to Henry Langston his kinsman, and to Francis his son, and the township of Buckinghamhull to Thomas Langston and John his son.

This Thomas Pigott, the younger, was the son of Thomas Pigott of Doddershall and Katherine, heiress of Thomas Langston, daughter of his brother Christopher Langston. (See Lipscumb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 406.) Lipscumb is, however, wrong in making Katherine daughter of Thomas Langston as he died childless; Thomas Pigott's mother, Katherine, was first cousin to John Langston, being daughter of Christopher, brother to John Langston's father Richard. We learn from an appendix (5 Sheffield) to John Langston's will that his widow, Jane, married Robert Hitchcock, who Browne Willis (p. 164, *et seq.*) tells us went to law with Thomas Moyle regarding the manor of Caversfield, which Moyle recovered for his family. We do not know the descent of the Henry Langston and his son Francis, and of the Thomas Langston and his son John, who are mentioned in the will, but believe that they were grandsons of a former Thomas Langston.

The village of Caversfield ('cafer,' an enclosure) is situated about two miles north of Bicester on the road leading thence to Banbury. About a mile to the west of the village is Bucknill, which was for a time the property of the Langstons. Caversfield, though surrounded by Oxfordshire, is an outlying parish of Buckinghamshire. Bishop Kennett, in his 'Parochial Antiquities,' derives the name of the place from Carausiusfeld, shortened and altered to Caversfield. Carausius was a British hero, with, however, a somewhat mythical history. It is said that he was a man well beloved of the Britons, by whose help he achieved many feats of arms in the reigns of the Emperors Diocletian and Maximian (*circa* A.D. 294). He was appointed Admiral of the Fleet in the British Seas with a view to repressing the incursions of pirates, and his success in arms tempted him to aspire to the government of Britain. He was opposed and slain in battle by Allectus, who took the title of Emperor, and was in his turn defeated and slain by Constantius Chlorus. The battle between Carausius and Allectus was fought in a field which formed a part of the Langston estate, and the camp of Carausius, so says the local history, still appears in the plain upon Bayard's Green, about a mile from Caversfield Church. In the year 1620 a pot full of brass coins, many of them having the impress of Carausius and others of Allectus, was found at Steeple-Claydon, about eight miles from Caversfield.

The Church of Caversfield, very ancient even in the days of John Langston and Amys Danvers, is situated near the road in what was once a square enclosure surrounded by a raised bank of earth and a ditch. Apparently this enclosure was an ancient burial-place during the rule of Rome in Britain, and many graves of that period have been discovered within it. It is probably this enclosure which gave the name to the village.* The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is a small one of mixed styles, consisting of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and western tower. The basement story of the tower is of the Saxon period. On the north and south are small round-headed windows widely splayed† within and without in walls of great thickness.

It would seem that the church had originally, as now, north and south aisles, but the aisles were long since removed, and the church at the time of the restoration, in the years 1873-74, consisted only of chancel, nave, and tower. At that time the present aisles were added. The beautiful doorway of Norman work which now gives entrance to the north aisle formerly stood near to or on its present site, but it is uncertain whether it gave entrance to a porch or directly to the nave. The fine Norman font, enriched by an intersecting arcade of early work, stands near the present entrance to the north aisle, and in it doubtless were baptized the two and twenty children of John and Amys Langston. There is in the chancel a piscina of the same age as the font.

The church and the monuments to the Langston family have been described by Anthony Wood (*circa* 1690, Wood,

---

* Blomfield's 'Deanery of Bicester,' part i., p. 14, and Parker's 'Architectural Topography of England,' County of Bucks, Caversfield.

† Such windows in the Saxon tower of St. Mary's, Guildford, have been shortened by the introduction of semicircular early Norman arches.

MS., E. 1, f. 179), by Browne Willis in his 'History of the Hundred of Buckingham' (*circa* 1755), and by Lipscumb (*circa* 1847) in his history of the county (vol. ii., p. 599). The brasses are also described by Haines ('Monumental Brasses') as he found them in the year 1858.

Besides the Langston brass, already described, to the memory of John Langston and his wife Amicia, there was on an ancient gravestone the portraiture in brass of a man, dressed apparently in priest's habit, at his mouth a scroll inscribed:

'Subveniat mihi Laurentii passio sancti;'

over this St. Lawrence with his gridiron; at two corners of the stone the arms of Langston, and round the verge:

'Obiit die St. Blasii an. dni. MCCCCXXXV. cujus aie p̃pitietur Deus. Amen.'

On another ancient slab was a shield bearing two bars, in fess point a mullet (for difference), in chief three estoils, impaling or a cross moline. Above, on a brass plate, two hands holding a heart inscribed 'credo,' and on three labels issuing therefrom:

'Heu mihi Deus, quia peccavi nimis in vitâ meâ, Quid faciam miser? ubi resurgam nisi ad te Deus meus? Miserere mei dum veneris in novissimo die.'

Willis says this is a memorial to Thomas Denton, who in his will, dated December 27, 1533, appointed to be buried in Caversfield Church.

Besides the above, Lipscumb saw a sepulchral slab on the floor of the church, almost covered by a pew, showing only a part of two small plates on which were the representation of the feet of many children. Also he saw two well-preserved figures of a man and woman on brass plates lying detached on the floor. When Haines visited the church in 1858, some ten years after Lipscumb's visit, parts of some of the brasses were loose in a chest, and of these some were stolen prior to the restoration of the church in the year 1873-74.

Of the original brasses there now remain in the church the brass to Thomas Denton, but minus the shield, upon the floor of the nave just outside the chancel. On the wall of the north aisle the figures of a civilian and a woman. Above his head is a shield bearing the Langston arms, and above hers a shield with Langston *quartering* Danvers (Brancestre). Beneath his feet is a group of twelve boys and beneath hers a group of ten girls. With these is a small portion of the inscription beginning 'Orate pro,' which formerly ran round the verge of John and Amicia's tomb. The woman is clearly the one figured in Lipscumb's engraving—Amicia Langston; the man—a civilian—belongs to another tomb, and is probably one of the figures which Lipscumb saw lying detached upon the floor. The inscription beginning 'O Pater excelse,' which Wood, Willis, and Lipscumb agree in stating belonged to the brass of John Langston and his wife, Amicia, has been placed above the altar-tomb on the north side of the altar, where, clearly, it is out of place. It should be restored to its former position beneath the feet of Amicia Langston.

On the north side of the altar, in an arched recess in the north wall of the chancel, is a raised stone tomb, the south side and ends of which are panelled and richly decorated, bearing the shield of Langston (or a chevron between two roses gules in chief, and in base a dolphin hauriant az.), and of Denton* of Ambrosden (arg. a mullet between two bars gules, in chief three estoils (cinquefoils?) sa. These arms are impaled with those of Langston at each end of the tomb. Round the verge ran an inscription, which Willis states had been torn away when he visited the church. He expresses an opinion that the tomb is that of John Langston, who died in the year 1487, and that his wife must have been one of the Dentons of Ambrosden. But Browne Willis was clearly unacquainted with the will of John Langston, who died in 1558, and gives, as we have seen, in his will very precise directions for the erection of a tomb within the wall on the north side of the church beside the high altar. The Denton match is not discoverable in the existing pedigrees of either family; the shields upon the tomb testify to it, but not as to the period of its occurrence.

Elizabeth Danvers, wife of the elder Richard of Prestcote, was buried in Cropredy Church, and a manuscript now in the Bodleian Library* records that there was formerly in the church a brass plate under the figure of a lady praying, the arms lost, on which was inscribed:

---

* Denton of Ambrosden. See vol. v. of Harleian Society.

> 'Hic jacet Elizabeth quondam uxor Ricardi Danvers armigeri D^{ni} de Prestcote qui obiit die mensis Februarii A^{o} Dom^{ni} MCCCCLXXXIJ. cujus animæ. . . .'

Richard Danvers was probably buried near his wife in Cropredy Church at the east end of the south aisle in the Prestcote (Danvers) Chapel, near to the place where John, the last of the Danvers of Prestcote, was buried in the year 1720.

Prestcote has been from a very early period a lordship of the territory, or barony, of Cropredy, which included Cropredy itself, together with Great and Little Bourton, Wardington, Williamscote, Millington, and Claydon with Clattercote. The village is situated on an eminence above the Charwell, and probably takes its name from 'crop' (Saxon), an eminence, and 'rhydde,' a ford.† In Domesday Book the name is written Cropelie, and in later times we have it Cropperia, Croperdy, Croprich, Croprydy. The lordship of Prestcote was formerly held of the Bishop of Lincoln by the Vipont (de vetere ponte) family (see Chapter III.). In the year 1350 Roger de Cottesford, chevalier, and Katherine, his wife, bought the manor and that of Little Hasely of Sir John Trimonel (Oxon Fine 38 of 24 Edward III.), and in the year 1361 it continued in their hands. From the year 1396 to 1417 the manor belonged to Sir Thomas Cottesford and his wife Alice. Sir Thomas, with Robert Trymonel, alienated Prestcote in the year 1419 to John Danvers‡ of Calthorpe.

Prestcote, a substantial red brick house, stands on slightly rising ground within the angle made by the confluence of the Charwell coming from the east, with an affluent (the Bradmere?), which joins it from the north. The stream thus formed takes a southerly direction, and is shortly crossed by

---

* Rawlinson MS., B. 400*b*.

† Perhaps 'Crop er wy,' an eminence on the water.

‡ See History of Cropredy, by the Rev. D. Royce, in 'Transactions (1879) of North Oxon Archæological Society;' also Close Roll of 7 Henry V., M. 19.

Cropredy Bridge, famous as the scene of the defeat in 1644 of the Parliamentary army under Waller by the Royalist forces. Not far distant from the bridge are the heights of Bourton and the village which was long a possession of the Danvers family. Thence Waller with his army swooped down upon the divided army of the King, and to it, after the defeat of his forces, he retired. Close to the bridge, on the Bourton road, is the site of the manor house of Cropredy (Cropreri), the dwelling-place of the family whose name is so often associated in early rolls with that of Danvers.* The house of the de Croperis has gone, and its site is occupied by a farmhouse which is still surrounded by the ancient moat. Close, too, to the head of the bridge, on an eminence which commands it, is the village of Cropredy, dominated by its fine and well-preserved church. In the churchyard is more than one grave of 'the faithful soldiers of the King' who were killed in the battle.

Three or four hundred yards north of the bridge is Prestcote house, standing amongst low grounds, which are not unfrequently flooded, and it is quite possible that the slight eminence on which the house now stands was once an island, and as such may have been a place of refuge during the many invasions of the Danes to which this part of the country was subjected. Possibly it has its name Prestcote, or priest's house, from its having been an asylum for the religious of the neighbourhood during those perilous times. Of the old manor house nothing, excepting a portion of the moat, is outwardly visible. It is, however, clear that John Danvers, the last of the name who owned Prestcote, when he rebuilt the house in the year 1691, did not entirely destroy the old building, but incorporated portions of it in the present fabric. The entrance hall, panelled with cedar, and the old oak staircase, are of a much earlier period than his time, while the massive walls which the house includes may well have belonged to the manor house of the first John Danvers of Prestcote.

---

* In a charter of the time of Henry II., of Robert, son of Walquelin of Wicheham, Gaufrid de Croper signs as a witness (Lincoln. Regist. Antiquissimum, p. 19). In 1225 (Queen's College MS.) Simon de Croperia has a fief in Cropery, Kildesby, and Sutteford, and about this period we have Hugh and Philip de Cropperi in the Chaucombe Charters. In the Roll of the Hundreds we have Simon de Cropredy in Croprech and elsewhere. In the Queen's College Roll of 1300 Henry de Cropry has a fief in Cropry, Shutford, and Kildesby. In Lay Subsidy Roll of Oxon of 1 Edward III. ($\frac{161}{9}$) Simon de Cropery pays the largest subsidy at Cropery. Further, we find the family associated with that of Danvers as witnesses, or otherwise, in several of the Chaucombe, Bourton, and other charters. The family seems to have died out in the latter part of the reign of Edward III. or in that of Richard II.

Walter Gostelow and his father, Richard, lived at Prestcote House,* and the former was born there in the year 1600. Writing in 1655, he says the house had within his memory 'groves and good walks about it—some religious house I conceive it to have been. An altar and chappel I have known in it.'

Cropredy Church (St. Mary) is a fine fourteenth-century church, consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave, north and south aisles, western tower, south porch, and vestry with a priest's room above it on the north side of the chancel.

Probably the present church was built on the foundations of an older church (*circa* 1200), of which the east wall of the nave remains. While this church was standing the eastern part of the south aisle was constructed to form a chantry for the burial of some important person, or not improbably to contain the shrine of St. Fremund, whose remains were about the year 1206 translated to the church of Dunstaple Priory. Within the chantry two arched recesses were inserted in its southern wall, and in one of them was placed the effigy, of which a mutilated portion remains, supposed to be that of Sir Simon de Croperi. About the year 1320 the chancel was rebuilt, and this is the period of the beautiful piscina, sedilia, and recess in the north wall, which was probably constructed to serve as an Easter sepulchre. Afterwards the remainder of the church seems to have been rebuilt piece by piece, commencing, probably, about the middle of the fourteenth century, with the south aisle and its extension to form a chantry to the south of the chancel. Towards the end of the century the nave, with its clerestory and the present fine chancel arch, were built. The north aisle is later, of Perpendicular work, and was subsequently prolonged to form a chantry on the north side of the chancel. It is probable that the last portion of the work was carried out in the latter half of the fifteenth century, and that at the same time the south chantry was partially rebuilt, for it will be remembered that Richard Danvers in his will, made in 1488, leaves 100s. to the works of the body, or nave, of the prebendal church of Cropredy, and 20s. towards the repair of the chapel of St. Fremund. At this time, too, or perhaps a little later, the wooden screen was erected which still divides the Prestcote, or Danvers, chapel from the rest of the south aisle. In the moulding over the panelling on either side of the door of the screen are the letters A. D. (Ann Danvers?), with stops of roses and pateræ of lily leaf. The rood screen, judging from its remains, must have been exceptionally fine, but in recent times it was cut down, and converted into the screen which now divides the chancel from the north chapel. Sad havoc was made of the church at the time that it was 'pewed' in the seventeenth century. Happily all the eighteenth and seventeenth century 'improvements' have been cleared away during the incumbency of the present vicar,* and all that is possible has been done to repair the mischief of modern restorers; the church is now an impressive and interesting example of Decorated and Perpendicular work.

---

* Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 462.

The history of Sir John Danvers, afterwards of Dauntsey, the second son of Richard Danvers, begins a new chapter in the history of the family, and must, therefore, be deferred; but it will be well to continue here the history of Richard, his elder brother, and that of his sisters, Margery and Anne.

Richard Danvers, the younger, was born about the year 1445, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Preston. By her he had only one child, Anna, of whom we have been able to learn nothing further than that she was seventeen years of age at the time of her father's death in the year 1505. Richard Preston became imbecile in his old age,† and a grant was made in 1486 to Richard Danvers, the younger, husband of Elizabeth, daughter and heir-apparent of Richard

---

* The Rev. William Wood, D.D.

† Vol. i. of the Rolls Series. 'Materials for the History of the Reign of Henry VII.,' p. 379.

Preston, that he may look after the safety of the said Preston, and have regard to the application of his estate to the maintenance of Elizabeth, while Thomas Englefield is to have custody of Richard Preston, an idiot, and of his property.

Richard Danvers the younger died in 1505, and a translation of his post-mortem inquisition is appended, both because the original is a good example of such a document, and because it shows the descent of the manor of Prestcote through three generations of the family.

Oxon.—Chancery Inq. P. M. 20 *Hen. VII., No.* 134.

Inquisition taken at Burford on the 16th day of January 20 Hen. VII. [1505] before John Bleke Escheator, after the death of Richard Danvers Esq. by the oath of Thomas Pynnok &c. &c. Who say that the said Richard held neither lands nor tenements of the King either in demesne, reversion or service at the time of his death.

One John Danvers Esq. deceased was seised of the manor of Prescote in his demesne as of fee, and so seised by his charter (shown to the Jurors in evidence) he gave to Richard Danvers Esq. his son, also deceased, the manor aforesaid: to hold to him and his heirs male, with remainder to the right heirs of the said John. By virtue whereof the said Richard was thereof seised as of fee-tail, and had issue the said Richard now lately deceased and John Danvers Knt., and died thereof seised. After whose death the manor aforesaid descended to the said Richard as his son and heir, who died thereof seised without heirs male. After his death the manor aforesaid descended to the said John Danvers Knt. as the brother of the said Richard (the son) and as the heir male of the said Richard (the father), who was and still is thereof seised in his demesne as of fee-tail.

The said manor is held of William Bishop of Lincoln in right of his Bishopric, as of his Castle or manor of Banbury by the service of one knight's fee, and is worth per ann. clear £26 13s. 4d.

At the time of the death of the said Richard (the father) he and John Langston Esq. were seised of 7 messuages, 12 virgates of land, and 30s. of rent with appu'rts. in Bourton Magna, Bourton Parva, Banbury, Wardington and Adderbury in Co. Oxon, to them and to the heirs and assigns of the said Richard, and the said Richard died thereof seised. After his death the reversion of the premises descended to the aforesaid Richard (the son) as his son and heir, who died seised of the said reversion. The said John Langston continued in the premises and is still thereof seised.

Anna daughter of the said Richard (the son) is his next heir, and is aged 17 years and more.

The lands and tenements in Burton Parva and Wardyngton are held of John . . . by the service of one knight's fee, and are worth per ann. clear £3. The said lands and tenements in Bourton Magna and Banbury are held of William, Bishop of Lincoln by the 4th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per ann. clear £4. The lands and tenements in Adderbury are held of the Abbot of Chester by fealty only, and are worth per ann. clear 26s. 8d.

Richard Danvers (the son) died 27 December last past.

Margery, Richard's eldest daughter, married Sir Thomas Englefield of the old Berkshire family of that name, and of Wotton-Basset in Wiltshire.* The family took their name from the town of Englefield, where they were settled two hundred years and more before the Conquest. Sir Nicholas of Rycot, an earlier member of the family, married as his second wife Elizabeth Quatermain, sister to Maude who married John Bruley. Sir Thomas, Margery's husband, was Speaker to the House of Commons in the year 1496, and was knighted on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Arthur with Katherine of Arragon. He was Justiciar of the City of Chester and was again Speaker in the first Parliament of Henry VIII. He died in or about 1512, and was buried in

---

* Collins' 'Baronetage,' edition 1741, vol. i., p. 254; Betham's 'Baronetage,' vol. i., p. 125; Harleian Society's Publications, vol. xii., p. 122; Harleian MS. 245, p. 29; Lee's 'History of St. Mary's, Thame,' p. 293.

Englefield Church, where his monument still remains. Out of his mouth proceeded this scroll:

> 'O bone Jesu tu novisti et potes, et vis bonum animabus nostris; nos nec novimus nec possumus';

and out of his wife's is a like scroll:

> 'Tu, pro pietate tua ineffabili nobiscum dispones secundum quod noveris tibi velle et nobis prodesse.'

Ashmole, in 1665, copied what remained of the epitaph. It was as follows:

> 'Here lyeth sure Thomas Englefilde and Margery his wyffe, the whych sure . . . . the 3rd day of April, the yere of our . . . . v and xiii on whos soules Jhesu have . . . . .'

Thomas and Margery left two sons and four daughters. The eldest, Richard, died without issue; the second, Thomas, has a long line of descendants.

Elizabeth, the second daughter of Richard Danvers, married William Dale of Tickencote, Rutland. At a very early period the manor of Tickencote rested in the family of Daneys, or Dacus. In the time of Henry II. they held it of the Grimbalds, a powerful family in those days. Sir Robert Daneys, who died without issue in 13 Henry VI., left as his heirs his sister Jane, aged 22, wife of Thomas Dale, and her sister Elizabeth. The Dales obtained the whole of the manor of Tickencote. Thomas, son of the above, died 20 Edward IV., leaving as his heir his son William, aged 8 years. William was lord of the manor of Tickencote, but lived at Tidmarsh in Berkshire. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Danvers, and left three daughters, who married, and became Anne Fetiplace, Elizabeth Lynne, and Johanna Wollescott (Blore's 'History of Rutland,' p. 59).

The third son of John Danvers and Alice Verney was another John Danvers, who was in Holy Orders, and, as Aske tells us ('Collect. Topog. and Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 20), was a Doctor of both laws. In the year 1472 he released to his brother, Richard Danvers, any rights he might have in the manors which formerly belonged to his brother Robert (Additional Charter, 38,857). Lipscumb ('Hist. of Bucks,' vol. iii., p. 376) states that John Danvers was Rector of

Hogston on the presentation of Lady Clinton in the year 1414. But clearly Lipscumb confuses our John Danvers with another man of the same name, who, as we learn from the Lincoln Institutions, was made Rector of Hogston in 1414, after having held and officiated in another rectory—that of Apsley Guise, Beds. This would put back this John's birth to about the year 1390, and precludes his being our John Danvers, who we know died in the year 1504, and was not born till after A.D. 1400. Moreover, we learn from the Patent Roll (21 Henry VI., Part ii.) that John Danvers, jun. (*sic*), was preferred that year (1442) to the living of Bourne in the diocese of Canterbury (Harleian MS. 6,963, p. 65), while from the Lincoln Registers we learn that in the year 1431 John Danuers was presented by Thomas Baldington (dom. de Aldebury, his brother-in-law) to the church of Aldebury c̄. cantaria Merston Trussell.

One of the Harleian MSS. states that John Danvers was a prebend of St. Paul's Cathedral, but his name does not appear in any authentic list of the prebends; yet that he was in some way associated with the cathedral seems probable from the fact of his having been connected by the marriage of his sister with the brother of the then Dean of St. Paul's, William Say, and from the curious instructions which in his will he leaves with reference to his burial in St. Paul's Churchyard. He is the 'Uncle Doctor Danvers' to whom in 1482 Dame Margaret Lyneham bequeathed her 'grete playne salt.'

Dr. Danvers died in the year 1504. His will (27 Holgrave) is as follows:

Will of Master John Danvers.

(27 *Holgrave.*)

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th day of February 1504, 20 Hen. 7. I Master John Danvers Clerk do make my will in manner following.

I give my body to be buried in the parish Churchyard of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's in London in such place as by my Executrice shall be thought most convenient. 'And I will that my said Executrice in all goodly haste after that my body be ther buried provide and ordeyne a stone of Marbill to be laide over my sepultur or grave with an ymage representing my persone dedely.'

I bequeath to Margaret the wife of Michell ffisher gent. late the daughter of Sir Henry Frowyk Knt. £5.

The residue of my goods, chattels and debts, after my debts and the costs of my funeral are paid and this my will in all things fulfilled, I give to Cristiana Tewkysbury of London, widow, whom I ordain my only Executrice.

Witnesses: Master Thomas Stokes, John Checherly, tailor, William Marsham, salter, citizens of London, John Russhell and Richard Baas notaries.

Proved at Lambeth the 18th day of February 1504.

The Margaret Fisher mentioned in the will was great-niece to John Danvers, being daughter to Joan Frowyk, daughter to John's brother, Sir Robert Danvers.

Agnes, the only daughter of John Danvers and Alice Verney, was four times married—first, to Thomas Baldington; second, to Sir John Fray; third, to Lord Wenlock; fourth, to Sir John Say.

Her first husband was Thomas Baldington of Baldington Manor, and of Aldebury, son of William, son of John Baldington. His family was allied to that of Danvers by the marriage of his sister Agnes to Thomas Denton, of Caversfield. Thomas Baldington died on August 22, 1435 (Inquis. P. M., 15 Henry VI., No. 28). His inquisition, taken at Thame, in Oxfordshire, states that his wife, Agnes, was still alive, and that his heirs were his daughters—Agnes, aged eight years; Alice, aged one year; and Isabel, aged one month. We hear nothing more of Isabel. Agnes, the eldest, is said to have married five times. Her first husband was William Browne,* of Halton (Oxon, Fine 116 of 32 Henry VI.), by whom she had two children, Robert and

---

* Close Roll of Edward IV., M. 36. John Danvers, clerk (Dr. John Danvers, brother of Agnes Danvers) demises to Agnes wife of Geoffrey Gate, Knt., formerly wife of William Brown of Halton, manors of Aldebery and Draycote and lands in Shipton, Charwell, and Weston. Should Agnes die without heirs of her body, to pass to right heirs of her father, Thomas Baldington.

Constance, who are mentioned in her mother's will. Her second (third ?) husband was Sir Geoffrey Gate,* whose widow she was when her mother made her will in the year 1478. Alice, her sister, married Henry Tracey, of the ancient Gloucestershire family of that name, and, as appears from Oxon Fine 116 of 32 Henry VI., was also married to a John Wakehurst. In Lipscumb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 205, she is called 'heiress of the Baldingtons, and heir general of the Arundels.' Her eldest son, Sir William Tracey, was sheriff of Gloucester in the year 1512, and is memorable as having been one of the earliest of the men of consequence in the country to embrace the reformed religion (Burke's 'Extinct Baronetcies').

Agnes Baldington's second husband was Sir John Fray, a lawyer, and a celebrity in his day. A Hertfordshire man, he represented the county in the Parliaments of September 28, 1419, and in that of November, 1420. In the latter sat with him his future father-in-law, John Danvers, than whom he cannot have been many years the junior. In the year 1423-24 he was Recorder of London, and in the following year was raised to the Bench as Baron of the Exchequer, and in 1436 became Chief Baron, and presided in the court for twelve years. He died in the year 1461,† and was buried in the church of St. Bartholomew the Less in Smithfield. His heirs, as we learn from his inquisition (No. 28 of 1 Edward IV.), were his four daughters—Elizabeth Waldegrave, aged 20; Margaret, wife of John Lynham (Plomer), aged 19; Agnes, aged 18; and Katherine, aged 14. Thus, Agnes Fray had living two daughters with the same Christian names, and this was one of the sources of the confusion we shall presently notice regarding her marriages.

Not long after Sir John's death, Agnes Fray took as her third husband Sir John Wenlock, a widower.‡ Sir John's first wife was Elizabeth (daughter of Sir John Drayton, of Kempston, Beds), to whose memory he raised the beautiful chapel in Luton Church which bears his name. No memorial to her now remains in the chapel, but the following inscription had formerly a place in one of the windows:

---

* Sir Geoffrey died in 1477; his widow, Agnes, in 1487. She remarried William Bramlac, Inquis. 20 Edward IV. (Morant's 'Essex,' 2, p. 146).

† Will (23 Stockton) was made March, 1457. See also Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' vol. ii., p. 491, and Foss's 'Judges of England' and 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. iv., p. 308.

‡ Harleian MS. 1,531: also Lysons' 'Bedfordshire' and Fine No. 66 of 14 Henry VI., in which occur John Wenlok, his wife Elizabeth *and* John Delabere. Also Nicholas' 'Testamenta Vetusta,' pp. 297, 343.

> 'Jesu Christ, most of myght
> Have mercy on John le Wenlok, knight,
> And on his wyffe Elizabeth
> Woh out of this world is passed by death;
> Woh founded this chapel here.
> Helpe them with yr hartey prayer;
> That they may come to that place
> Where ever is joy and solace.'

Sir John Wenlock* held many offices in the reign of Henry VI. Amongst others, he was Constable of Bamburgh Castle, Chamberlain to Queen Margaret, and was employed abroad on important missions. In May, 1455, he fought at Barnet, on the side of the King, in the first of the battles of the Wars of the Roses—a battle in which, chiefly owing to the leadership of the Earl of Warwick, the Lancastrians were defeated with great slaughter. Amongst the slain were the Duke of Somerset, and the Earls of Northumberland and Clifford, while many of the other leaders, amongst them Wenlock, were wounded. The King himself was wounded, and was captured and carried to London. After this battle, Wenlock made his peace with the Yorkists, and in the July following we find him elected as Speaker of the Parliament which assembled that month at Westminster. At the battle of Towton he fought on the side of the Yorkists, and for his gallantry was raised to the dignity of a Baron—he had already been made a Knight of the Garter. Ten years later, and Wenlock had again changed sides; and at the final battle of the Wars of the Roses, the battle of Tewkesbury, was one of the leaders, under the Duke of Somerset, of the Queen's army. There Wenlock died—slain, as it is said, by the Duke, who, taking his inaction for treachery, in his fury clove Wenlock's head with his battle-axe. Thus Agnes Wenlock, for the third time, was a widow.

---

* We are indebted to the Rev. Henry Cobbe, Rector of Maulden, for the following account of the pedigree of Lord Wenlock: 'Wenlock had a son William, a priest, a canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, who is buried in the fine tomb in the Wenlock chapel of Luton Church. The sister of William the priest, Joanna, married Nicholas Wynell, or Wyvell, and their son, William Wynell, *alias* Wenlock, had a son John, Lord Wenlock, who was husband of Agnes Danvers. The heir of Lord Wenlock was Thomas Lawley, descended from Agnes Lawley, daughter of Thomas Wynell, brother of the Nicholas Wynell who married Joanna Wenlock. From Thomas Lawley the present Lord Wenlock proves his descent. The will of William Wenelok is registered at Somerset House, Rous 6, and is interesting from the number of his friends whom the testator mentions. He desires that he may be buried in the church of Luton, Beds.'

Her fourth husband was Sir John Say, a man of considerable note in his day. Sir John is commonly called in the records of the period, 'of London.' His brother William, who was a scholar of Winchester College from 1425 to 1428, and became a Fellow of New College, Oxford, is described in the college register as 'of Aldgate.' He was not Founder's kin. According to the Visitation of Middlesex,* Sir John was a son of William Say. His mother's name is not stated. In the Hustings Roll of the City of London, of the years 1426 and 1443, appears the name of Ralph Say, grocer; in the year 1441, that of William Say, clerk; in the years 1455 and 1459 John Say, Esq.; and in the year 1470, Sir John Say, Knight. We have not been able to learn anything further regarding Sir John's ancestry, but his father appears to have been a man of good position, and armigerous. This we infer from the fact that a descendant of Sir John's brother Hugh† had the same coat of arms as Sir John, which, therefore, had descended to them from a common ancestor.

Sir John Say‡ was member for the borough of Cambridge in the Parliament of February, 1446-47, and for the county in January, 1441-49. He was member for Hertfordshire in the Parliament of January, 1455, and for the same county, and Speaker, in May, 1467, and December, 1477. For a time he was sub-Treasurer of England.

Sir John was a strenuous supporter of the Lancastrian party, and played a conspicuous part in the events which, in 1470, restored Henry VI. for a brief period to the throne;

---

* Harleian MS. 1,551, fol. 121.

† Harleian MS. 1,557, fol. 74.

‡ Manning's 'Lives of the Speakers of the House of Commons.'

but he appears to have finally joined the Yorkists, and on his tomb in Broxbourne Church wears the collar of suns and roses proper to that party.

About the year 1450* Sir John Say married Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Cheney, Esq., of Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire, widow of Frederick Tilney, Esq., and mother to Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk.† By his first wife Sir John had several children. She died in the year 1473, and was buried in Broxbourne Church,‡ in the tomb which she had prepared during her lifetime for herself and for her husband. The inscription on the tomb is as follows:

> 'Here lyeth Dame Elizabeth, sometyme wyfe to Sir John Say, K^{nt}., daughter of Laurence Cheney, Esq^{re}., of Cambridgshire, a woman of noble blode and most noble in gode manners, which decessed the xxv day of September the year of our Lord 1473, and enterred in this church of Brokesburne abydynge the body of her said husband, whose souls God bryng to everlasting life.'

Sir John's second wife was Agnes Danvers, then for the third time a widow. Both the bride and bridegroom must have been of mature age when they married. They had no children.

Sir John died on April 12, 1478, leaving very large landed property in Essex, Hertfordshire, and Cambridgeshire.§ His heir was his son, William Say, aged 26 and more at the time of his father's death. In the year 1464|| Sir John bought the manor of 'Sabrysford, *alias* Sabrysworth,' in Hertfordshire, from David Malpas and his wife Agnes. This manor was the ancient possession of the de Say family, and the fact of Sir John's* holding it, together with the similarity of his name to that of its former lords, appears to have given rise to the idea that he was descended from the 'de Says.' Of this, however, there is no evidence, and his coat of arms, as dis-

---

* Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' vols. ii., p. 391, and iii., p. 195.

† The Earl of Surrey, who commanded at Flodden Field.

‡ The monuments of the Say family in Broxbourne Church are figured and described in Cussan's 'History of Herts,' vol. ii., part ii., p. 183.

§ Inquis. 18 Edward IV., No. 43, and will dated April 10, 1478; proved October, 1478.

|| Herts Fine, No. 37 of 14 Edward IV.

played upon his tomb, is not that of the de Says, and was never borne by them. The arms are 'per pale azure and gules, three chevronels argent, each charged with another humetté, countercharged of the field.'

Sir John was buried in Broxbourne Church in the tomb which his first wife had prepared. Their monument is placed beneath the arch which separates the chancel from the south aisle of the church. There, on a raised tomb of Purbeck marble, are the effigies in brass of Sir John Say, Knt., in a complete suit of armour, and his wife Elizabeth in a rich dress, emblazoned with the arms of Cheyney. Above Sir John are his arms, as already given.

Sir John's heir was his eldest son, Sir William Say, who also lies buried in Broxbourne Church. He married Elizabeth, widow of Sir Thomas Waldegrave (the daughter of his stepmother Agnes by her second husband, Sir John Fray). By her first husband Elizabeth had children, from one of whom the present noble family of Waldegrave is descended.

Sir John Say had four brothers, one of whom, Hugh, married the heiress of Robert Colebrook, and had a son David, from whom, in the fourth generation, was descended Robert Say of Ickenham,* Middlesex, who, as we have mentioned, bore the same arms as did Sir John.

Another brother of Sir John's was William, who became Dean of St. Paul's, London. He was educated at Winchester College, where he entered as a scholar in the year 1425.† He was Dean of St. Paul's from November, 1457, till his death on November 23, 1468. He was also of the King's Privy Council, and was Prolocutor of the Synod held at London in 1463. Dean Say was a considerable benefactor to Winchester College in the way of church plate and vestments, and most likely gave money as well to be expended in the purchase of land. It would appear that he was the personal friend of Bishop Waynflete, for we find him‡ asked to meet Waynflete at breakfast at the college in the year 1443, and in the year 1447, after the election of Waynflete to the See of

---

* Harleian MS. 1,551, fol. 121, and MS. 1,557, fol. 74.

† Newcourt's 'Repertorium,' vol. i., p. 44.

‡ Kirby's 'Annals of Winchester College' (London, 1892), pp. 202, 203.

Winchester, Monsieur William Say and other gentlemen are invited to dinner to meet the Bishop-elect.

Dean Say was buried in the church of St. Faith, in the crypt beneath the choir of St. Paul's,* and after his death a chantry was under his will founded for a priest to perform Divine service in the chapel in which he was buried for the soul of the said William, as also for the good estate of Sir William Say, Knt., and of Henry, Earl of Essex, and Mary his wife, and of William Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and Elizabeth, his wife, during their lives in this world, and for their souls after their departure hence, and for the souls of Sir John Say, Knt. and Elizabeth his wife, father and mother of the said Sir William, as also for Thomas, Leonard, Anne, Elizabeth, Katherine, and Mary, children of the said Sir John and Elizabeth, and for the soul of Robert Shirborne,† then Dean of the Cathedral, and the souls of the faithful deceased, and for keeping the anniversary of the said William Say on November 23 for ever.‡

Clutterbuck's account of the parentage of Sir John Say is as follows: The manor of Sabrysworth (Sawbridgeworth) was carried to John de Fallesley by his marriage with Elizabeth, heiress of the De Saye family (Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' vol. iii., p. 190, and vol. ii., pp. 63 and 195), and after his death, by his wife's second marriage to Sir William Heron, of the ancient family of that name. Sir William, in right of his wife, became lord of Sabrysworth and Baron Say, titles which he continued to bear after her death. Sir William married as his second wife Elizabeth, widow of —— Norbury, sister to Ralph Botteler, but by neither wife had he children. On his death (October 30, 6 Henry IV.) his brother, John Heron, became his heir, and had a son, Sir John Heron of Sabrysworth, who died in 1420, leaving as his son and heir another John Heron. This John died in 1468 (Inquis. P. M. 8 Edward IV., No. 33), leaving, according to Clutterbuck, a son, another John, whom he calls John Say, and states that he married, first, Elizabeth Cheyney, and, secondly, Agnes Danvers. But Clutterbuck gives no reason for the change of name from Heron to Say, and, moreover, we find, on referring to the post-mortem inquisition of the John Heron and his wife Agnes, who died in 8 Edward IV., that the jurors state they did not know who were his heirs, which they surely would have known had the succession been as stated by Clutterbuck. Further, Sir Richard Heron, in his history of the family (Newark, 1797), though he knows very well the Herons of Sabrysworth, makes no mention of Sir John Say or of anyone corresponding to him.

---

* Dugdale's 'History of St. Paul's Cathedral,' Ellis's edition of 1818, p. 403.

† Scholar of Winchester College, 1465-74; Fellow of New College, 1474-86; afterwards Bishop of St. David's, 1565; of Chichester, 1568.

‡ Dean Say, with William of Wykeham and other distinguished ecclesiastics of Wykeham's Colleges, is figured in one of the fifteenth-century drawings of Winchester College, from the Chandler MS., communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by T. F. Kirby, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.—'Archæologia,' vol. liii.

Dame Agnes Say died in June of the year 1478, and was, as she directs in her will (34 Wattys), buried near her second husband, Sir John Fray, in the church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less in Smithfield. Her post-mortem inquisition was taken November 5, 1478.* Her daughters are Agnes, formerly wife of Sir Geoffrey Gate, aged 40 and more; Margaret, wife of John Lynham, aged 36; Alice, wife of Henry Tracy, aged 32 years and more; Elizabeth, formerly wife of Thomas Waldegrave, aged 30 years and more; Katherine, wife of Humphrey Stafford, aged 26 and more.

Agnes, wife of Sir Geoffrey Gate, was eight years of age when her father, Thomas Baldington, died in the year 1435, and was, therefore, 51 when her mother died in the year 1478; while her sister, Alice Tracy, who in her mother's inquisition comes in between two of the Fray daughters, was a year old when her father died in 1435, and was, therefore, 44 when her mother died—not 32, as she herself, or the jurors, represent her. Margaret Lynham was 19 at the time of her father, Sir John Fray's, death in 1461, and her age is, therefore, correctly stated in her mother's inquisition; but

---

* Inquis. P. M. 18 Edward IV., No. 45. Other references to Agnes Say and her family are, Aske in 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 320; Harleian MSS. 808, p. 42, 1556, 5187, p. 92, 4204, p. 60, 1393, p. 20; Lansdowne MS. 260, p. 106.

Elizabeth Waldegrave was a year older than her sister Margaret, and her age, therefore, was 37—not 30—and Katherine Stafford's age was 31—not 26. We shall return presently to these ladies and their misrepresented ages.

The will of Dame Agnes Say was proved on July 16, 1478. She leaves money for a priest to sing for the souls of my Lord Wenlock, Sir John Fraye, and Sir John Say, 'myn husbands,' the trental of St. Gregory in a place to be assigned to him by Dame Margaret Lynham, 'her fonde daughter.' She mentions her daughter, Dame Annys Gate, widow, mother of Constance Dye, 'her daughter's daughter.' She also mentions Robert Browne (son of Dame Annys by a previous husband), to whom certain lands were to pass on the death of Dame Annys Gate. She also leaves a legacy to her daughter, Alice Tracy, and mentions her brothers, Thomas, William, and Richard Danvers. Her executors were Elizabeth Waldegrave, Henry Danvers, and John Clopton.

Owing to the fact that in her will Dame Agnes mentions but three of her husbands, and owing, too, perhaps, to the confusion resulting from the misrepresentation of her daughters' ages, three or four of the genealogists of the family have been led to assume the existence of two daughters of John Danvers, both named Agnes, or Annys, of whom the elder, the daughter of Alice Verney, married Thomas Baldington, while the younger, a daughter of Joan Bruly, married Sir John Fray, Lord Wenlock, and Sir John Say. But it is quite evident from the will and post-mortem inquisition of Dame Agnes Say that she was the mother of Dame Agnes Gate and of Alice Tracy, and the widow, therefore, of Thomas Baldington.*

In Long Melford Church, Suffolk, is a very interesting memorial of Dame Agnes and of two of her daughters, Margaret Lynham and Elizabeth Waldegrave, and it was placed there by an old friend, Sir John Clopton, not improbably an admirer of the fascinating Agnes. Fascinating we presume she was, for though it does not appear that she was a lady specially well endowed in lands and money, she won four husbands, all men of good position, and three of them men distinguished in the State. And we incline to think that Sir John Clopton desired to leave such a record of her, for from the window of Long Melford Church her large dark eyes look out upon one, as doubtless they did of old upon her admirers, and notably distinguish her portrait from those of her daughters.

---

* Cf. Cussan's 'Herts,' vol. ii., p. 310, and Vincent's 'Collections,' Heralds' College, 56, pp. 220, 221.

The history of the window is an interesting one, and worthy of a short notice. In the days of Agnes Danvers the lord of Long Melford was Sir John Clopton, of an old Suffolk family, son of Sir William Clopton, and his wife, Margaret Franceys. Sir John (born in 1423; died 1497) was a stout Lancastrian, and was at one time committed, with four or five companions, to the Tower by the Yorkists, who were just then the uppermost party. It is told that his companions were all beheaded,* but that Sir John managed to make his peace with his gaolers, and lived to be executor to the wills of many great people—amongst others to those of Ann, Duchess of Buckingham, and of Dame Agnes Say.

Perhaps in gratitude for his deliverance from the Tower, Sir John determined to pull down the old Norman Church of Long Melford, and to build in its place the grand church which still dominates the village green and village. Seventy-two windows, it is said, the church displayed, and all of these Sir John or his immediate descendants filled with painted glass, chiefly portraits of their friends and connections. But evil days came upon this, as upon so many other churches—days when men went about searching for what they were pleased to call 'superstitious imagery,' and many a fair window and many a grand tomb, memorials of the illustrious and pious dead, were wantonly destroyed, often because they bore the pious petition that their successors in the faith would pray for the welfare of the souls of those departed. And so it came about that when, in the year 1688, the history of the church was written by the then vicar, but eighteen of the painted windows remained, and those in a mutilated state. Destruction went on till the year 1828, when, and again in 1862, the fragments of the painted glass were collected, and sufficient was found to fill three windows — the great east window and the two west windows of the aisles. And, marvellous to relate, of the few figures which survived, three were those of Dame Agnes Say and her two daughters.

---

* Sir W. Parker's 'History of Long Melford.'

Formerly these portraits were in the ninth window, from the west, of the north aisle, where they occupied the upper compartments, while below were two of the Clopton family and the wife of Sir William, the son of Dame Agnes' friend, Sir John. These now occupy a portion of the west window of the south aisle.* The minor tracery at the top of the window is filled with fragments of figures of saints and coats of arms. In the first light, on the south side, is the figure of a saint, over the portrait of Anna, wife of Sir John Boughton, daughter of John Denston and Catherine, sister to Sir John Clopton. Beneath her is a small figure and the Clopton and other arms. In the next light, at top is an angel, then the portrait of Margaret, wife of Thomas Peyton; beneath her are the arms of East Anglia, and fragments; beneath these Lady Howard. Centre light, St. Michael; beneath Thomas, Rookwood, who married Ann, daughter of Sir John Clopton, and also a Hilton. Beneath these is Ann Darcy, sister to Sir John's wife, married to John Montgomery. In the next light, above is an angel, below is Dame Agnes Say, with the arms, ermine a fess sa. between three beehives or, of her second husband, Sir John Fray, emblazoned on her mantle, and those of Brancestre on her under garment. Beneath, 'Pray for D^{na} Annes Fray.' Beneath Dame Agnes Fray are sundry emblems of the Trinity, a small figure of the resurrection, and the badge of the White Roses. Beneath is Dame Agnes' daughter, Dame Elizabeth Waldegrave. She bears her husband's arms—per pale argent and gules—on her mantle; her father's on her under-garment. In the next light, above is an angel, beneath which is a man in a surcoat of arms (unknown); beneath him a coat of arms and small figures. Next, underneath, is Dame Margaret Lynham, wearing her husband's arms—vert a chevron between three lions' heads erased or, on each as many gouttés gules—on her surcoat, and those of her father, Sir John Fray, on her under-garment. Beneath, among many fragments, is the fine head of a lady and a small crowned head of a man.

---

* From Sir W. Parker's description of the windows, and from notes lately made on the spot by the writer.

Amongst the figures in the window of the north aisle, which corresponds to that just described, is one of Elizabeth Tilney, wife of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, who commanded at Flodden Field, and was restored in 1514 to the dukedom of Norfolk. She was the daughter of Frederick Tilney, Esq., and Elizabeth Cheney. Her mother, as we have seen, took as her second husband Sir John Say, and their son, Sir William Say, married Elizabeth, widow of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, and daughter of his stepmother, Agnes (Danvers), by her second husband, Sir John Fray.

Two matches of the family* connected the Cloptons with that of Sir John Say—first, his niece Elizabeth, daughter of his brother Thomas Say, married William Clopton, grandson of Sir John, while another grandson of Sir John's—Richard Clopton—married a Waldegrave. MS. No. 318 of Lambeth Palace contains in the handwriting of William Cecil, Lord Burghley, the pedigrees of many county families. Amongst others is that of the descendants of the marriage of Geoffrey Gates, great-grandson of Thomas Baldington and Agnes Danvers, with Elizabeth, daughter of William Clopton, a marriage which forms another link between the families of Clopton and Say.

---

* For Clopton, see Harleian MS. 1449, and Harleian MS. 155, p. 31*b*; also Harleian Society's Publications, vol. xiii.

and those of her father, Sir John Fray, on her under-garment. Beneath, among many fragments, is the fine head of a lady and a small crowned head of a man.

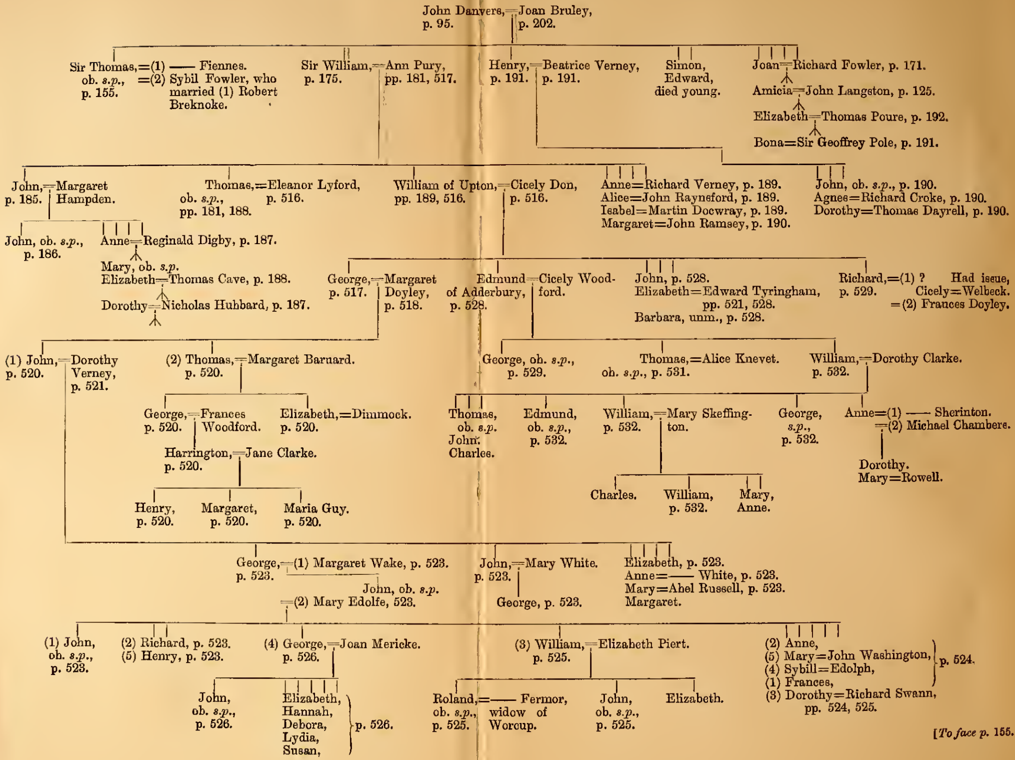
Amongst the figures in the window of the north aisle, which corresponds to that just described, is one of Elizabeth Tilney, wife of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, who commanded at Flodden Field, and was restored in 1514 to the dukedom of Norfolk. She was the daughter of Frederick Tilney, Esq., and Elizabeth Cheney. Her mother, as we have seen, took as her second husband Sir John Say, and their son, Sir William Say, married Elizabeth, widow of Sir Thomas Waldegrave, and daughter of his stepmother, Agnes (Danvers), by her second husband, Sir John Fray.

Two matches of the family* connected the Cloptons with that of Sir John Say—first, his niece Elizabeth, daughter of his brother Thomas Say, married William Clopton, grandson of Sir John, while another grandson of Sir John's—Richard Clopton—married a Waldegrave. MS. No. 318 of Lambeth Palace contains in the handwriting of William Cecil, Lord Burghley, the pedigrees of many county families. Amongst others is that of the descendants of the marriage of Geoffrey Gates, great-grandson of Thomas Baldington and Agnes Danvers, with Elizabeth, daughter of William Clopton, a marriage which forms another link between the families of Clopton and Say.

* For Clopton, see Harleian MS. 1449, and Harleian MS. 155, p. 31*b*; also Harleian Society's Publications, vol. xiii.

DANVERS OF WATERSTOCK, UPTON, AND ADDERBURY.

(Chapters VI. and XVII.)


John Danvers, p. 95. = Joan Bruley, p. 202.
Sir Thomas, ob. s.p., p. 155. =(1) —— Fiennes. =(2) Sybil Fowler, who married (1) Robert Breknoke.
Sir William, p. 175. = Ann Pury, pp. 181, 517.
Henry, p. 191. = Beatrice Verney, p. 191.
Simon, Edward, died young.
Joan = Richard Fowler, p. 171.
Amicia = John Langston, p. 125.
Elizabeth = Thomas Poure, p. 192.
Bona = Sir Geoffrey Pole, p. 191.
John, p. 185. = Margaret Hampden.
Thomas, ob. s.p., pp. 181, 188. = Eleanor Lyford, p. 516.
William of Upton, pp. 189, 516. = Cicely Don, p. 516.
Anne = Richard Verney, p. 189.
Alice = John Raynsford, p. 189.
Isabel = Martin Docwray, p. 189.
Margaret = John Ramsey, p. 190.
John, ob. s.p., p. 190.
Agnes = Richard Croke, p. 190.
Dorothy = Thomas Dayrell, p. 190.
John, ob. s.p., p. 186.
Anne = Reginald Digby, p. 187.
Mary, ob. s.p.
Elizabeth = Thomas Cave, p. 188.
Dorothy = Nicholas Hubbard, p. 187.
George, p. 517. = Margaret Doyley, p. 518.
Edmund of Adderbury, p. 528. = Cicely Woodford.
John, p. 528.
Elizabeth = Edward Tyringham, pp. 521, 528.
Barbara, unm., p. 528.
Richard, p. 529. =(1) ? Had issue, Cicely = Welbeck. =(2) Frances Doyley.
(1) John, p. 520. = Dorothy Verney, p. 521.
(2) Thomas, p. 520. = Margaret Barnard.
George, ob. s.p., p. 529.
Thomas, ob. s.p., p. 531. = Alice Knevet.
William, p. 532. = Dorothy Clarke.
George, p. 520. = Frances Woodford.
Elizabeth, p. 520. = Dimmock.
Thomas, ob. s.p. John. Charles.
Edmund, ob. s.p., p. 532.
William, p. 532. = Mary Skeffington.
George, s.p., p. 532.
Anne =(1) —— Sherinton. =(2) Michael Chambers.
Harrington, p. 520. = Jane Clarke.
Dorothy.
Mary = Rowell.
Charles.
William, p. 532.
Mary, Anne.
Henry, p. 520.
Margaret, p. 520.
Maria Guy. p. 520.
George, p. 523. =(1) Margaret Wake, p. 523. =(2) Mary Edolfe, 523.
John, ob. s.p.
John, p. 523. = Mary White.
George, p. 523.
Elizabeth, p. 523.
Anne = —— White, p. 523.
Mary = Abel Russell, p. 523.
Margaret.
(1) John, ob. s.p., p. 523.
(2) Richard, p. 523.
(5) Henry, p. 523.
(4) George, p. 526. = Joan Mericke.
(3) William, p. 525. = Elizabeth Piert.
(2) Anne, (5) Mary = John Washington, (4) Sybill = Edolph, (1) Frances, p. 524.
(3) Dorothy = Richard Swann, pp. 524, 525.
John, ob. s.p., p. 526.
Elizabeth, Hannah, Debora, Lydia, Susan, p. 526.
Roland, ob. s.p., p. 525. = —— Fermor, widow of Worcup.
John, ob. s.p., p. 525.
Elizabeth.

[*To face p.* 155.

0.

e,
k.
y.

ers.

p. 155.

CHAPTER VI.

A.D. 1420—1520.

Thomas Danvers of Waterstock, eldest son of John Danvers and Joan Bruley, was born about the year 1422, and died in the year 1502; that is to say, he lived from the year of the death of Henry V., through the long reign of Henry VI., and the reigns of Edward IV., Edward V., Richard III., and the greater part of that of Henry VII.

Thomas inherited from his father the Brancestre property in Banbury, and also that of both branches of the Bruley family at Henton, Waterstock, Corston, and elsewhere. He was twice married—first to a sister of Lord Say,* who is often mentioned in genealogies of the family, though her Christian name is nowhere given. She was a daughter of the James Fiennes, Lord Say, who was beheaded in the year 1450; sister, therefore, to William, second Lord Say. Edmondson, in his 'Baronagium Genealogicum,' gives William three sisters, of whom one, named Elizabeth, married William Cromer; the matches of the other two sisters, Emmeline and Jane, are not mentioned, and it was doubtless one of these whom Thomas Danvers married. His second wife was Sybil Fowler, daughter of William Fowler and Cicely Englefield, who was otherwise related to the Danvers family, since her aunt Sibyl married Richard Quatermayn, and her brother, Richard Fowler, married her husband's sister, Joan Danvers.

We know from her will that Dame Sybil had two husbands,

---

* See Harleian Roll, p. 10, also record of the arms of one of his wives upon his tomb in Waterstock Church, which were those of Fiennes, Lord Say, and over it written, 'the daughter of Jacobus Fynes, his worde Thanke God.'

Thomas Danvers and Robert Breknoke, and as in her will she calls herself Danvers, it would seem that Robert Breknoke was her first husband. Moreover, we learn from Lee's 'Gatherings in Oxfordshire' that in the year 1573 there was in Haseley Church, on a gravestone, a shield bearing the arms of Breknoke and Fowler, and the inscription, 'Richard Brecknok son of Robert Brecknok Esq^{re} and Sibell his wife, ob. 28 March 1435.'

Thomas Danvers lived in the old manor house of Waterstock, the windows of which he decorated with the arms of the families with whom he was related, as well as with those of William of Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester, and George Neville, Archbishop of York, prelates with whom politics and business matters allied him. His house has long since disappeared. That is not matter for wonder, for the ancient 'manoir' was not suited to the enlarged ideas and views of comfort of even Tudor times; but with the house has gone the church also—the church in which Foliots, Bruleys, and Danvers worshipped—the church which Thomas Danvers enlarged and was careful to adorn, and in which he and his two wives were buried. All has been swept away by modern restorers; not a vestige of the ancient tombs and of the painted glass with which the windows of the church were once profusely decorated now remains. The modernized tower is the only part of the old church (excepting perhaps the north aisle) that has been left standing. A pleasant church is the present one, well kept and garnished, but, alas! no longer an example and a monument of the work and piety of ancient days, Waterstock Church does but repeat the story of too many church restorations of the present century.

Thomas Danvers, as his letters and the society in which he moved give evidence, was an educated and cultured man; and while we have made use of the lives of his brothers Robert and Richard in illustration of the fact that, amidst the turbulent conditions of their time, the apparatus of justice was maintained, and trade became vigorous, that of Thomas may remind us of another feature of the period, namely, the 'new culture,' 'the existence of which,' writes Dr. Bright, 'more than anything else separates the middle ages from modern times,'* and was then beginning to make its way. 'As the leader in this direction, Humphrey of Gloucester may be mentioned. In spite of his turbulent and disorderly character, he was a sincere lover of literature. He was in communication with several of the greater Italian scholars. More than one classical translation was dedicated to him.' 'He did not stand alone in his literary tastes. Tiptoft, the Earl of Worcester, was likewise impregnated with Italian learning, and among the newer nobles Lord Rivers gave distinguished patronage to the art of printing, which Caxton introduced into England in the year 1469. Altogether it would seem that among the upper classes the rudiments of learning were beginning to be widely spread, and that the laity were gradually becoming sufficiently cultivated to rival the Churchmen, and to take their proper part in the government of the country.'

And of this revival of learning in England the foundation of Magdalen College by Bishop Waynflete was a consequence and a sign. For the Bishop was moved thereto, writes his biographer, Dr. Chandler, by his observation of the low estate to which his University had fallen—an estate so low that the University of Paris had broken off its ancient connection with that of Oxford, counting it as a school of learning beneath its notice. And Thomas Danvers, the friend of Waynflete, and actively engaged about the business of the foundation, must have hailed with delight the rising walls of the splendid building, which to all time will be a monument of Waynflete's taste and munificence. In a letter which Danvers addressed about this time from Waterstock to Mayhew, President of the College, then in London, the jovial nature of the good knight breaks forth, and he tells Mayhew that 'he was yesterday at the College, and had full good cheer with the bowsers' (bursars). But the greatest of the bursars of Magdalen was not yet there, nor till late in life did Danvers see the noble tower of the College rise under the care of Thomas Wolsey.

So that Thomas Danvers, though he may scarcely have aspired to the title of a 'literate,' was by no means an unlettered country gentleman. Indeed, the experiences of his life must have been very varied. He was a justice of the peace for the counties of Oxford and Southampton, was at one time a member of the household of the Bishop of Winchester, and at another of that of the King.* By the Bishop he was freely employed in arrangements for the endowment of his college, and at one time he served as collector of the customs of the Port of London.† He was, too, a member of three Parliaments, and, a pronounced Lancastrian, was amongst those who were attainted for non-attendance at a Parliament of 2 Edward IV.‡

---

* Bright's 'History of England,' vol. i., p. 353.

The Parliaments in which he sat were those of 38 Henry VI., which met at Coventry, and of 12 and 17 Edward IV., which met at Westminster. In each of these he represented the borough of Downton, Wilts, and as the right of election to Downton was vested in persons having a freehold interest in tenements held of the Bishop of Winchester, who was lord of the borough, the choice of Thomas Danvers as their representative is readily explained.

The first of these Parliaments met at Coventry on November 20, 1460 (1459?), and was wholly made up of stanch friends of the House of Lancaster. On the day of meeting, the King sitting in his chair in the chapter-house of our Lady of Coventry, Chancellor Waynflete made a notable declaration why this Parliament was called, taking for his text the words, 'Gratia vobis et pax multiplicetur.' The Parliament quickly did all that was required of it; the Duke of York and his followers of any note were attainted, and then, with the thanks of the King, the Parliament was dissolved.

The King, as we learn from the French Rolls,§ was at this time seeking an alliance with the powerful Duke of Burgundy, and a commission was appointed, dated November 26, to treat with the Duke's commissioners regarding the continuance of the truce and for mutual intercourse in trade. Of the King's commissioners one was Thomas Danvers, and with him were John Danvers, possibly his nephew, Osbert Mountford, Richard Heron, and others. But the commission can scarcely have begun negotiations before they were interrupted by the termination of the short-lived triumph of the Lancastrians. In the following July the Yorkist Earls, Salisbury and Warwick, landed in Kent, having with them the young Earl of March, afterwards Edward IV., and rapidly rallied around them the people of the South, who were as loyal to the Yorkists as were those of the North to the Lancastrians. London was captured, and Warwick, advancing northwards, met the King's army at Northampton on July 10, 1460. The Lancastrians were defeated with terrible slaughter, and the King, who was found deserted in his tent, was carried a prisoner to London; a Parliament was called, which met at London in October, when all the Acts of the Parliament of Coventry were annulled.

---

* Roll series, vol. vii., p. 868.

† Materials for history of Henry VII., Roll series, vol. ii., p. 85.

‡ Sir W. Ducket's 'Ducketiana,' p. 22.

§ Vol. ii., p. 346.

Twelve years after this we find Thomas Danvers again in Parliament, for though, like his friend Waynflete, warmly Lancastrian, like him he submitted to the new dynasty so soon as Edward became firmly seated on the throne. At Tewkesbury the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Somerset, and the other few remaining Lancastrian nobles were slain, and shortly after the old King was murdered in the Tower. Then the clergy and the lesser nobles made their peace with the reigning House, and at last the Wars of the Roses seemed to be at an end.* The Parliament met at Westminster in October of 1472 in the Painted Chamber, and was opened by Lord Chancellor Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The King was contemplating a renewal of the war in France in alliance with Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, and obtained from the Parliament a grant of 14,000 archers. His eldest son's patent as Prince of Wales was confirmed, and as an act of mercy many attainders were reversed. The Parliament was shortly after prorogued, but met again and again chiefly with regard to attainders and the disposal of estates, the owners of which had disappeared during the Civil Wars. It was not finally dissolved till March, 1474-75.

Thomas Danvers sat again in the Parliament which met at Westminster in January, 1477, and was opened by Lord Chancellor Rotheram, Bishop of London. The Chancellor

* Bright, p. 336.

took for his text the words, 'Dominus regit me et nihil mihi deerit,' and took occasion to show by many examples from the Old and New Testaments the obedience which subjects owed to their King, and the evils that have happened to the rebellious.

The principal business of the session was the attainder of the King's brother, the Duke of Clarence. The trial took place before the House of Lords, the King in person being the accuser, and after a hot personal quarrel, in which the King charged the Duke with all sorts of ungrateful acts of treason, he was condemned, and was shortly after put to death in the Tower.

When Bishop Waynflete gave up the seals in the year 1460, he returned to the discharge of his duties as Bishop of Winchester, and began to occupy himself in preparations for the foundation of Magdalen College, moved thereto, as we have already noted, by the low estate to which the University of Oxford had fallen. As early as the year 1448, the year after he obtained the mitre, Waynflete founded a hall in Oxford for the study of divinity and philosophy, but it was not till May 5, 1474, that the foundation-stone of Magdalen College was laid, and it is a transaction of that year which gives us the earliest note we have of the connection of Thomas Danvers with the affairs of the college. This is a release from John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to Thomas and William Danvers of his rights in the manor of Stanlake, a manor which was subsequently transferred to the college.* It would be tedious to detail the long list of transactions which may be found recorded in the calendar of the archives of the college, and in the Close Rolls and Fines in which Thomas Danvers bore a part. To mention only a few of them. In the year 1464,† John Lynham, who married Thomas Danvers' niece, Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir John Fraye and Agnes Danvers, lent to Sir Robert Corbet and his son Robert the sum of £409 as a mortgage on their Stanlake property. Then in an Oxon Fine of 1 Richard III. we have Thomas's brother-in-law Richard Fowler, and Richard Quatermain, buying from Robert Corbet and Elizabeth his wife the manor of Tubney, and lands in

---

* Magdalen College Calendar, Stanlake 21 A.

† *Ibid.*, 29 A.

Denchworth, Frylleford, and Abingdon, and we have Margaret Lynham, widow of Sir John, selling the manor of Tubney and the advowson of the church to the Bishop of Winchester, and receiving from the Bishop, at the hands of Thomas Danvers, £46, the balance of the purchase-money of the manor.*

Amongst the muniments of the college is a long series of documents regarding the manor of Chalgrave, the earliest of which (15 A.), dated A.D. 1200, is a grant from Robert, son of David of Chalgrave, to Ralph Quatermain of lands there, and in connection with this manor we find in successive documents frequent mention of the families of Quatermain and Barantyne. The final destination of the manor was to form a part of the endowment of Magdalen College, but it went through the hands of Thomas Danvers, for in an Oxon Fine (No. 2 of 2 Richard III.) he buys the manor of Elizabeth, who was wife of John Botiller, a widow, and of her son, John Barantyne and his wife, Margaret. This, however, can have been only a part purchase, for in the year 1485† we have record of a mortgage by John Barantyne to his cousin, Thomas Danvers, of his manor of Chalgrave, and his wife Elizabeth receives £5 from her cousin Danvers. Following this is an engagement, dated June 29, 1485, from John Barantyne, that 'he will never ask the King or any other earthly creature to desire' his cousin Danvers to prolong the day of payment, and that if it is not paid in November next, the said Thomas Danvers shall foreclose the mortgage. The money was not paid, Thomas foreclosed, and shortly sold the manor to the Bishop of Winchester.‡

In the Close Roll (m. i., no. 171) of 1 Richard III. is another record of a transaction between Barantyne and Danvers. The former releases to Danvers all his rights, in the manors of Hendon and Wynnale, and the advowson of the chapel of Hendon juxta Chynnore, and in Bledlawe, and in Touresey, in Oxon; and in the same roll (No. 74): 'Be hit knowen to all peple that I, John Barantyne, Esqre., confesse myself by this present to have receyved of Thomas Danvers the daye of makyng this present thyrty pounds of sterling in full payment and contentacion of all somes of money for the purchase of the manor of Hendon and all oder landes in Hendon, Chynnore, and Touresey.' The manor, and the manor of Rufford also, went to the college.

---

* Tubney, 72.

† Magdalen College Calendar, Chalgrave, 30 A.

‡ *Ibid.*, 21 A.

Then, in the Close Roll of 8 Henry VII., (25 in margin), we have John Cottesmore conveying to William Danvers, Thomas Englefield, Thomas Danvers, and William Rabbes, for the son of Thomas Danvers, all his rights in the messuages, tofts, and lands in Great Milton, and in Great and Little Chilworth, which formerly belonged to John Cottesmore, a Justice in Banco. In the Close Roll 4 Edward IV. (M. 13 and 20) we find Thomas Danvers engaged in the sale, by William Fenys, Lord Say, of the Manor of Oterbourne to William, Bishop of Winchester; and again, in the Close Roll of the twenty-first year of the same reign, we have William, son and heir of John Newman, releasing to Thomas Danvers, William Danvers, Henry Danvers, John Frowyk, and Thomas Burton, the lands in Iver and Langley, Bucks, which were formerly those of John Newman.

One of the originals of these deeds is amongst the charters belonging to the British Museum (Additional Charter, 20329)—a slip of parchment about two inches across by eight or nine in length. The signature of Thomas Danvers, firm and distinct, is appended to it; his seal bears the device of a dragon holding a sword in one of its fore-paws.

Besides the short letter already quoted, in which Thomas Danvers mentions his visit to Oxford, and his good cheer with 'the bowsers' of Magdalen College, we have two other letters of his, one of which is amongst the muniments of Magdalen College, and the other is included amongst the Paston letters. The former is dated from Waterstock, August 15, 1494. 'At Waterstoke, on oure Lady Day the assumpsion, from Thomas Danvers to President (of Magdalen College) Mayew. Has received his letter from Kilyngeworthe of 11 August. The King's delaying his going to Rome for all this year is gladder tidings to the writer than winning of £20, considering the great trust that Waynflete put in him for the help of the College. Desires him to remember the matters about land in Shipton upon Cherwell, and at Edyngdon, and to move the King about them. Advises him to get Lord Husse safe to him, for his wisdom may do most for the College next the King. The King hath not another such man to do him service in attendance about him, for the Chief Justice is *homo universalis;* and I pray you, whenn ye see the Kyng at good leysere that ye say that I prayed his Grace to remember the erandys that my Lord Waynflete before his dethe commaundyd me to opyn to hym for the execucion of Kyng Henry the Sixtes laste wylle, College of Etin, and Cambrigge, your college, and Tatishall, with other maters, and these woordes that my lorde sent to the Kyng in Latin, *cum defecerit virtus mea ne derelinquas me, Domine,* and shalle show the Kyng more when he wylle commaunde mee.' Will ride to-morrow to London on errand known to the Kyng's mother. Suggests that he should write a letter to the Bishop of Winchester about Bryerton's matter (money owing to Waynflete).

The letter shows that Thomas Danvers was at the time taking an active interest in the affairs of Magdalen College, in those of kindred institutions, and in the affairs of his late friend, Bishop Waynflete, and that he was in communication regarding them with the King and the King's mother (Margaret, Countess of Richmond).

The Lord Hussey,* whom Thomas Danvers mentions, was at the time Chief Justice, an office which he held during four reigns. He died, full of years and honours, in 1495.

Letter from T. Daverse to Sir John Paston, A.D. January 29, 1467 (?) :†

'My right especiall good mayster, I recomand me to yow, thankyng you right hertely of your gentell letter late sent to me. And as to Pynchester mater, etc., I wulde I were youre nygh kynnesman, yef hit plesed God, and than shuld I know yef hit shuld greve your herte as meche as hit dothe other of my kynne and frendes to see me thus cowardly hurte and maimed by Pynchester, causeless; and if myn entente in that mater, Wylliam Rabbes shall telle you more. All so I beseche yow to recomand me to my Lordes good grace as to hym whom of erthely estates, next my dewte, I moste love and drede, and that shuld he well knowe, and hit lay in my power, praying you hertely to declare his Lordship such mater as Wylliam Rabbes shall enfourme yow, and to send my Lordes answere.

---

* Campbell's 'Lives of the Chief Justices,' vol. i., p. 154.

† Paston Letters, Gairdner's edition, vol. ii., p. 296. The letter is not dated.

'All so in as moche as I understoode by yow that money shuld cause you conclusion in your mater this next terme, and ye wull be at London on Monday at nyght or Tewsday by none, I truste I have studyed such a mene that, up on surete as ye may make, to gete yow an C. li. or C.C. marke, to be lante unto yow for an half yere, with oute any chevysshaunce or losse of goode by yow, as Wylliam Rabbes shall telle you more, etc.

'And as to Ovyde "de Arte Amandi," I shall send hym you this next weke, for I have hyt not now redy, but me thenkeyth Ovide "de Remidio" were more mete for yow, but yef (unless) ye purposid to falle hastely in my lady Anne P. lappe, as white as whales bon, &c. Ye be the best cheser of a gentell woman that I knowe. And I pray you recomaunde me to my Lord of Oxford and to my good Maysters Nedeham, Richemond, Chyppenham, Stavely, Bloxham, Stuard, and Ingulton in speciall, and all other good masters and frendes in generall. And, sir, Maystres Gaydade recomand me her (?) to yow and said blessyng fare for charite, and she said me she wuld fayne have a new felet, &c. Wreten at London this 29th day in Janyver, with herte and servyse your T. D.'

In the year 1501 Thomas was in London, and on the occasion of Prince Arthur's marriage was made a 'knight of the sword,' and on the same day his brother, William Danvers, and his nephew, John Danvers, of Dauntsey, received the same order, that of the sword; but it is probable that they were already knighted. Sir Ralph Verney, Sir William Cottesmore, and Sir William Clopton, all connected with the Danvers family, were on the same occasion made knights of the same order.*

Thomas Danvers was now an old man, yet in a green old age genial and hearty, right glad to welcome at his house at Waterstock visitors from Oxford, that with them he might talk over old times and of the new learning and of the doings and sayings of Erasmus and Grocyn, of Linacre and of Colet. And as the old knight was able to journey to London, he would make but a light matter of a ride to Oxford, where, as he crossed the river, he would see and admire the rising tower of Magdalen College, the college with the foundation and building of which so many of his best memories were connected. There he would find Thomas Wolsey, who held office in the college, and under whose guidance the tower was built, and passing on to Grocyn's house Danvers would meet Erasmus, who was Grocyn's guest—'patronus et preceptor' Erasmus calls him—and there, too, he would find the young Thomas More, afterwards Chancellor, now the pupil of Grocyn.

---

* Metcalfe's 'Book of Knights.'

And though the old man has no children of his own, for his only son died young, he has about him many cousins and nephews and nieces, young and old—Danvers and Langstons, Fowlers and Verneys, Frays and Says, Englefields and Westcotes, Raleighs and Chamberlains; and with him are his old and faithful servants, John Fulmer and William Rabbes, while his wife, Dame Sybil, hearty and strong, when his last days approach, is able to support his faltering steps across the lawn, that he may see the progress of the chancel which he is building, and concerning which, as in his will he writes, 'she knows his mind.' Early in the year 1502 Thomas Danvers died, and was buried in the tomb which he had prepared during his life—an altar tomb of gray marble against the north wall of the chancel of Waterstock Church.

The tomb remained until the latter part of the eighteenth century, and is described by Anthony Wood in one of his MSS. (Wood MS. E. 1, Bodleian), but it disappeared with so many other memorials of that period, when the church was rebuilt. Upon the monument 'was the picture of a man in armour kneeling upon a cushion, upon his surcoat were his arms, viz., arg. on a bend gu., 3 martlets vert (Danvers). On one side was a woman kneeling, over whose head was this coat: erm. on a canton gu., an owle arg. with a collar about its neck (Fowler).

On the other side was another woman with this coat over her: quarterly, 1 and 4 quarterly or and gu. (de Say), 2 and 3 az., three lions rampant or (Fiennes).' The pictures of the man and women praying were repeated in a window, and with them Saints Barbara, Trinitas, Anna, also the motto 'Thank God,' and the inscription:

> 'Orate pro aiabz . . . . filia Jacobi Fenys qui istam ecclesiam "fecerunt" [so it seems to be written in the margin, Wood's note], anno 1480.'

In the chancel window were the arms of Bruley and Bruley impaling Quatermayn, and of Danvers impaling Bruley. In the north aisle Danvers quartering Bruley impaling Danvers quartering Bruley over all, on a shield of pretence Quatermayn. In the west window beneath:

> 'Orate pro aiabz John Danvers armiger et Dom Johan Mauntell ux. sue, fil: et hered: John: Bruley et Matild: de Quatermayn ux. sue quondam patronissa istius ecclesie.'

In window of the tower Brancestre quartering Bruley, impaling Pury (arms of Sir William Danvers, of Chamberhouse), Danvers and Bruley impaling Verney (of Bucks) with the inscription:

> 'Orate pro anibz Henrici Danvers et Beatrici ux. sue filie Radulphi Verney milit.'

In a south window:

> 'Orate pro animabus Joh: Danvers et Dne Johe: Bruley ux suam ac . . . . Richardi Danvers de Prescote et Johes . . . . Wald . . . . de Rufford.'

(The aunt of Richard Danvers, see Chapter III., married William de Rufford.)

In another window the pictures of two bishops, under one the arms of George Neville and the See of York, under the other the arms of William Waynflete and the arms of the See of Winchester. Beneath the inscription:

> 'Orate pro anibz Georgii Neyle quondam Archep: Ebor ac Willi Waynflete Wynton Epi et Thos. Danvers, et sroy-geri-eoru p nichs.'

Wood has dashed these last few letters in red ink. Evidently he copied what he saw, but was unable to interpret.

In the south window of the church were the arms of Margaret Breknoke,* and there also were coupled together Bruley, with over it Henry Bruley, Miles, and a bend between six fleurs-de-lys, with 'this is Brules wyffe Fitzellis.' Probably this Henry Bruley, who had a wife Fitzellis, was Henry, the father of Agnes Bruley, whose son, John, married Maude Quatermayne.

Many other shields, bearing the arms of Danvers and allied families, were present in the windows of the church and those of the neighbouring manor house, for notes of which we may refer to Lee's notes, published in the Harleian Society's vol. v., and to Wood, MS. E. 1, now in the Bodleian Library.

Will of Thomas Danvers, K$^{nt.}$ (10 *Blamyr*).

In the name of God Amen. The 1st day of November in the 'fest of alhallowen' 1501. I Thomas Danvers of Waterstok do make this my testament and last will as follows:

I give my body to be buried 'where God dispose it.' And if I die at Waterstok then to be buried in the Chancel before St. Leonard.

I bequeath towards the reparation of the Mother Church of Lincoln 13s. 4d.

Also to each of the houses of the four orders of friars in Oxford 13s. 4d. Also to the Warden and Fellows of New College Oxford to say mass and dirge for my soul 26s. 8d.

I bequeath to the parson of Waterstok 13s. 4d.

I bequeath to my brother Sir William Danvers one bason and one ewer of silver in the which are graven my fathers arms and my mothers together, for a remembrance for my soul.

I bequeath to the Churches of Milton, Ikford, and Aldebury 20s. each; also to every Church where I have any livelihood 6s. 8d.

I also give towards the exhibition of two virtuous priests being scholars in Oxford 40s. each yearly for two years to say mass for my soul at all times of the year except at the eight principal feasts when I desire that they say mass for my soul in the Church of Waterstok.

---

* Margaret Breknoke was the wife of the David Breknoke mentioned in Dame Sybil Danvers' will, and was one of the daughters and heirs of John Syfrewast. She held a moiety of the manor of Cleware and land in the parish.—Vol. ii. of 'Ancient Deeds,' Record Office, B. 3690. The deed is dated March 5, 16 Edward IV. See also vol. i. of 'Ancient Deeds,' B. 1112 and C. 1106. See also, for Breknoke family, Gyll's 'History of Wraysbury.'

I bequeath to Richard Croke son of Agnes daughter of my brother Henry Danvers when he comes to his full age, and it is thought by my Executors that he will thrive, 10 marks. To my Godson Robert Croke brother to the said Richard £10 to be employed after he come to the age of 21 years towards his help and preferment.

I will that my Executrix have all my goods moveable and unmoveable in what place soever they be to pay my debts and wrongs.

I will that William Rabbes my old servant have for his true service to him and his heirs all the houses in Whateley and the lands that I bought of Richard Laughton and Agnes his wife.

I bequeath to John Fulmer 'to be good and true to my wife' 10 marks; 20s. to each of his other servants.

I will that my Executrix sell any purchase land that I have in Oxfordshire, that is to say, the crown of Oxford, in Woodstoke, Clever, and Bensington to do for my soul as shall seem most expedient.

As to my 'leveloode' at Langstoke in Hampshire I will that my Executrix dispose of it to the house of St. 'Swethums' in Winchester to pray for my soul and for that of Lord Waynefiete.

I bequeath to Whately bridge and Ikeford bridge and high ways £20.

I will that the 'Ile' in Waterstoke Church be finished 'in as goodly haste as it may be and covered with leede;' also that there may be a new Chancel made in Waterstoke Church according as I have begun and as my wife knows my mind.

I will that my feoffees in the manor of Waterstoke, Chilworth and Combe with the appurtenances make an estate to my wife for the term of her life if she remain unmarried, if she marry, then it shall go forthwith to my right heirs.

The residue of all my goods after my debts and the costs of my burying paid I bequeath to Dame Sibyl my wife whom

I make my sole Executrix. I appoint my brother Sir William Danvers, Justice, to be Overseer of this my present will.

Witnesses: Master Christopher Bainbridge Archdeacon of Surrey, Master John Whithers, John Walker, Thomas Darell, Richard Grenefeld, John Fulmer, and others.

Proved at Lambeth the 26th day of September 1502.

Thomas Danvers' inquisition is in File 795 of No. 2 series of 'Escheators' Accounts,' Record Office. It states that he died September 10 last past, 15 Henry VIII., and the inquisition states that his heirs (Waterstoke) were his cousins, daughters of John Danvers, Anne wife of Reginald Digby, Elizabeth wife of Thomas Cave, and Dorothy wife of Nicholas Hubburde. This, therefore, was an inquisition taken after the deaths of John, son of John Danvers, and his fourth sister Mary.

Excepting his wife, his great nieces, daughters of his nephew John Danvers, and his brother, Sir William Danvers, Richard and Robert Croke are the only relatives whom Sir Thomas Danvers mentions in his will. They were sons of Agnes Croke,* daughter of his brother Henry and Beatrice his wife, the daughter of Sir Ralph Verney. The boys are interesting, for their mention by Thomas Danvers gives us almost certainly the parentage of a man of some note in his day, Richard Croke. Sir Alexander Croke, in his 'History of the Croke Family' (vol. i., p. 439), devotes a chapter to Richard Croke. He believes him to have been a member of the family, but is not certain where in the pedigree to place him. He knows that Richard was born in London about the year 1492, of an ancient and honourable family, this Richard Croke tells us himself in one of his orations, and adds that he was in early years deprived of his inheritance by the iniquity of his relatives. He had a brother, Robert, whom he mentions in his will, and there can be little doubt that these are the brothers to whom Thomas Danvers leaves a legacy.

Richard Croke was sent by Archbishop Warham from Eton College to King's College, Cambridge, where he matriculated April 4, 1502. He studied Greek under Grocyn, and became one of the first restorers and most successful cultivators of the language. Leaving England, he became public reader of Greek successively at Cologne, Louvain, Leipsic, and Dresden. Thence he was recalled by Henry VIII., with whom and with the nobility that were learned he became a great favourite,* and succeeded Erasmus as Professor of Greek at Cambridge, where he was public orator 1522-28. He was employed by the King to visit Italy, and especially the University of Padua, with a view to agitating the question of the unlawfulness of the King's marriage with his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Many of his letters to the King are amongst the Cotton MSS. at the British Museum. Richard Croke finally became Rector of Long Buckly, Northants, where he died in the year 1558. His brother was Sir Robert Crooke, or Croke, of Water Horton, Warwick.

---

* Harleian Roll, p. 10, makes them the sons of Richard Croke and Agnes, daughter of Henry Danvers.

Dame Sybil Danvers survived her second husband nine years. Her will, a copy of which follows, mentions her husbands, Thomas Danvers and Robert Breknoke, also her brother, Thomas Fowler, and other members of the Fowler family, one which, by marriage, and by many business transactions of which we have record, was intimately related to that of Danvers.

The Fowler family † appears to have first acquired position by the marriage of Sybil's grandfather (probably named Henry) with Elizabeth, sister and heiress of John Barton of Thornton, Buckingham. This Henry (?) is said in the pedigrees to have been son of John Fowler, of Foxley, Bucks, by the heiress of Loveday, but no authentic evidence of this is forthcoming. After the match with Barton, the Fowlers frequently used the Barton arms, namely, ermine on a canton gules an owl argent, and from this coat the owl of their crest was manifestly derived. William Fowler, the son and heir

---

* Wood's 'Athenæ Oxoniensis,' vol. i., p. 259; and Forster's 'Alumni Oxoniensis.'

† Fowler family. Cf. W. H. Carter in vol. vii. of Marshall's 'Genealogist,' and in Miscell. Genealog. et Herald. N.S., vol. iii., p. 345; also Harleian MS., 4031, 105*b*. For a somewhat legendary account of the family, see Burke's 'Extinct Baronetcies,' and Wotton's 'Baronetage,' iv., 102. See also notices of the family in Dr. Lee's 'History of the Church of St. Mary, Thame.'

one of the first restorers and most successful cultivators of the language. Leaving England, he became public reader of Greek successively at Cologne, Louvain, Leipsic, and Dresden. Thence he was recalled by Henry VIII., with whom and with the nobility that were learned he became a great favourite,* and succeeded Erasmus as Professor of Greek at Cambridge, where he was public orator 1522-28. He was employed by the King to visit Italy, and especially the University of Padua, with a view to agitating the question of the unlawfulness of the King's marriage with his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Many of his letters to the King are amongst the Cotton MSS. at the British Museum. Richard Croke finally became Rector of Long Buckly, Northants, where he died in the year 1558. His brother was Sir Robert Crooke, or Croke, of Water Horton, Warwick.

Dame Sybil Danvers survived her second husband nine years. Her will, a copy of which follows, mentions her husbands, Thomas Danvers and Robert Breknoke, also her brother, Thomas Fowler, and other members of the Fowler family, one which, by marriage, and by many business transactions of which we have record, was intimately related to that of Danvers.

The Fowler family † appears to have first acquired position by the marriage of Sybil's grandfather (probably named Henry) with Elizabeth, sister and heiress of John Barton of Thornton, Buckingham. This Henry (?) is said in the pedigrees to have been son of John Fowler, of Foxley, Bucks, by the heiress of Loveday, but no authentic evidence of this is forthcoming. After the match with Barton, the Fowlers frequently used the Barton arms, namely, ermine on a canton gules an owl argent, and from this coat the owl of their crest was manifestly derived. William Fowler, the son and heir

---

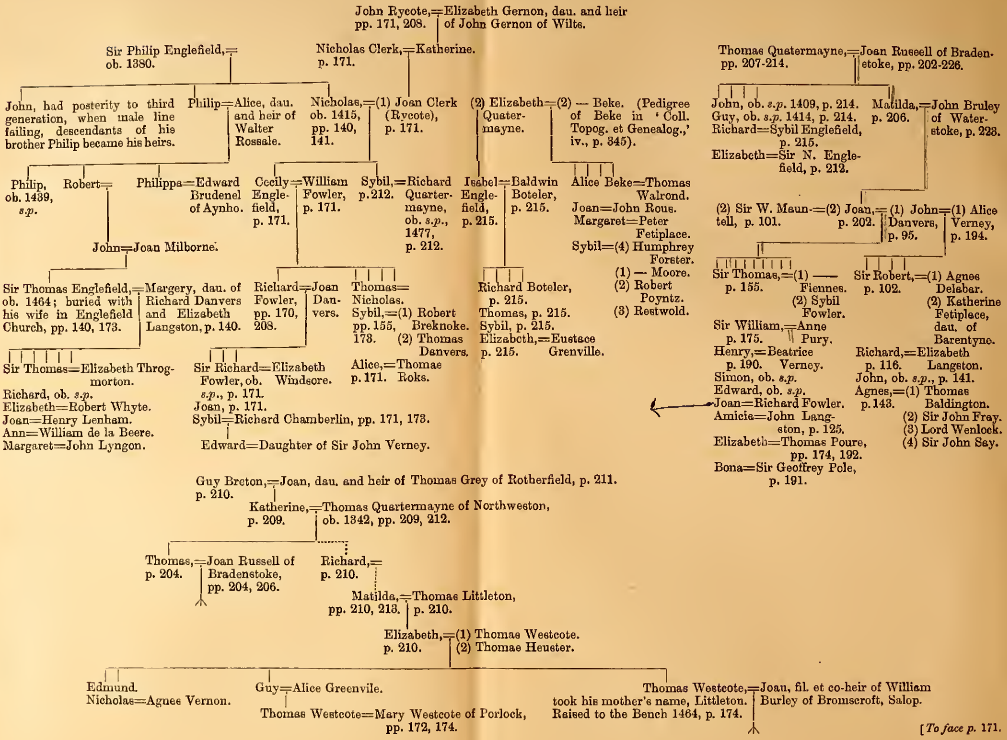
* Wood's 'Athenæ Oxoniensis,' vol. i., p. 259; and Forster's 'Alumni Oxoniensis.'

† Fowler family. Cf. W. H. Carter in vol. vii. of Marshall's 'Genealogist,' and in Miscell. Genealog. et Herald. N.S., vol. iii., p. 345; also Harleian MS., 4031, 105*b*. For a somewhat legendary account of the family, see Burke's 'Extinct Baronetcies,' and Wotton's 'Baronetage,' iv., 102. See also notices of the family in Dr. Lee's 'History of the Church of St. Mary, Thame.'

There is a History of the Quartermayne Family w
was written (& published) by Mr. Wm. Fowler Carter. I hav
a copy of it. [illegible]

TABLE TO SHOW ALLIANCES OF DANVERS, ENGLEFIELD, FOWLER, AND QUARTERMAYNE.

(CHAPTERS VI. AND VII.)



John Rycote,=Elizabeth Gernon, dau. and heir of John Gernon of Wilts. pp. 171, 208.

Sir Philip Englefield,= ob. 1380.

Nicholas Clerk,=Katherine. p. 171.

Thomas Quatermayne,=Joan Russell of Bradenstoke, pp. 207-214. pp. 202-226.

John, had posterity to third generation, when male line failing, descendants of his brother Philip became his heirs.

Philip=Alice, dau. and heir of Walter Rossale.

Nicholas,=(1) Joan Clerk (Rycote), p. 171. ob. 1415, pp. 140, 141.

(2) Elizabeth=(2) — Beke. (Pedigree of Beke in 'Coll. Topog. et Genealog.,' iv., p. 345). Quatermayne.

John, ob. *s.p.* 1409, p. 214.
Guy, ob. *s.p.* 1414, p. 214.
Richard=Sybil Englefield, p. 215.
Elizabeth=Sir N. Englefield, p. 212.

Matilda,=John Bruley of Waterstoke, p. 228. p. 206.

Philip, ob. 1439, *s.p.*

Robert=

Philippa=Edward Brudenel of Aynho.

Cecily=William Fowler, p. 171. Englefield, p. 171.

Sybil,=Richard Quartermayne, ob. *s.p.*, 1477, p. 212. p. 212.

Isabel=Baldwin Boteler, p. 215. Englefield, p. 215.

Alice Beke=Thomas Walrond.
Joan=John Rous.
Margaret=Peter Fetiplace.
Sybil=(4) Humphrey Forster.
(1) — Moore.
(2) Robert Poyntz.
(3) Restwold.

(2) Sir W. Mauntell, p. 101.=(2) Joan,=(1) John=(1) Alice Verney, p. 194. p. 202. Danvers, p. 95.

John=Joan Milborne.

Sir Thomas Englefield,=Margery, dau. of Richard Danvers and Elizabeth Langston, p. 140. ob. 1464; buried with his wife in Englefield Church, pp. 140, 173.

Richard=Joan Danvers. Fowler, pp. 170, 208.

Thomas=Nicholas.
Sybil,=(1) Robert Breknoke. pp. 155, 173. (2) Thomas Danvers.
Alice,=Thomas Roks. p. 171.

Richard Boteler, p. 215.
Thomas, p. 215.
Sybil, p. 215.
Elizabeth,=Eustace Grenville. p. 215.

Sir Thomas,=(1) —— Fiennes. p. 155. (2) Sybil Fowler.
Sir William,=Anne Pury. p. 175.
Henry,=Beatrice Verney. p. 190.
Simon, ob. *s.p.*
Edward, ob. *s.p.*
Joan=Richard Fowler.
Amicie=John Langston, p. 125.
Elizabeth=Thomas Poure, pp. 174, 192.
Bona=Sir Geoffrey Pole, p. 191.

Sir Robert,=(1) Agnes Delabar. p. 102. (2) Katherine Fetiplace, dau. of Barentyne.
Richard,=Elizabeth Langston. p. 116.
John, ob. *s.p.*, p. 141.
Agnes,=(1) Thomas Baldington. p. 143. (2) Sir John Frey. (3) Lord Wenlock. (4) Sir John Say.

Sir Thomas=Elizabeth Throgmorton.
Richard, ob. *s.p.*
Elizabeth=Robert Whyte.
Joan=Henry Lenham.
Ann=William de la Beere.
Margaret=John Lyngon.

Sir Richard=Elizabeth Windsore. Fowler, ob. *s.p.*, p. 171.
Joan, p. 171.
Sybil=Richard Chamberlin, pp. 171, 173.

Edward=Daughter of Sir John Verney.

Guy Breton,=Joan, dau. and heir of Thomas Grey of Rotherfield, p. 211. p. 210.

Katherine,=Thomas Quartermayne of Northweston, ob. 1342, pp. 209, 212. p. 209.

Thomas,=Joan Russell of Bradenstoke, pp. 204, 206. p. 204.

Richard,= p. 210.

Matilda,=Thomas Littleton, p. 210. pp. 210, 213.

Elizabeth,=(1) Thomas Westcote. (2) Thomas Heuster. p. 210.

Edmund.
Nicholas=Agnes Vernon.

Guy=Alice Greenvile.

Thomas Westcote=Mary Westcote of Porlock, pp. 172, 174.

Thomas Westcote,=Joan, fil. et co-heir of William Burley of Bromscroft, Salop. took his mother's name, Littleton. Raised to the Bench 1464, p. 174.

[*To face p.* 171.

of Henry (?) Fowler by Elizabeth Barton, married Cecily, daughter and coheiress of Nicholas Englefield by Joan Rycote, who was the daughter and heiress of Nicholas Clerk, or Rycote, by Katherine, daughter and heiress of John Rycote, of Rycote. Richard Fowler, the eldest son of William and Cecily (and brother of Dame Sybil Danvers) became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and married Joan Danvers. He died in the year 1478, and his will, which is lengthy and curious, is given almost in full in Browne Willis's 'History of the Hundred of Buckingham.' He desires to be buried in the aisle of the church of St. Romwold, Buckingham, and orders a new shrine curiously wrought for the bones of the saint, and directs that he himself should be buried under a flat stone with images and escutcheons. He mentions his wife, Joan, his aunt Sybil Quatermayn, his daughter Sybil Chamberlayn, his sisters Alice Roks and Sybil Danvers, and his brother Thomas Fowler. He wills that his daughter Joan, when fifteen years of age, shall be married to his ward, Edward Stradling, and to have a portion of four hundred marks.

Richard's heir was his son Richard, born in the year 1466, who evidently became, as described by Leland, 'a very onthrift.' He married Elizabeth,* daughter of Thomas Windsor, and sister to Lord Windsor, and died A.D. 1528, *s.p.*, when the Fowler estate devolved to his uncle Thomas, whose grandson † Dame Sybil Danvers mentions in her will as 'Thomas Fowler, cousin and heir apparent of my brother, Thomas Fowler.'

Will of Dame Sybil Danvers. (2 *Fetiplace.*)

In the name of God Amen. The 13th day of May 1511 I Dame Sybil Danvers do make my last will in form following:

I give my body to be buried in the 'yle' of St. Anne in the church of Waterstoke.

---

* Elizabeth's father was descended from Sir James Windsor, brother of the Sir William Windsor who, in 1378, married Alice Perrers, daughter of Richard Perrers. Sir William died in 1383.

† Had the younger Thomas been 'son of Thomas,' Dame Sybil would have so called him. 'Cousin' was the title commonly applied to grandchildren.

I bequeath to the Cathedral Church of Lincoln 20d., also to the high altar of Waterstoke 3s. 4d., and to the high altar of Mylton 3s. 4d., for tithes forgotten; to the Church of Mylton 20d.; to the altar of St. Anne in the Church of Waterstoke 20d., and to her light 20d. I bequeath to the lights of Our Lady, the Roode, St. Leonard & St. Katherine, 12d. each; to the bells of Waterstoke 3s. 4d.; to the Church of Aldebury 3s. 4d.; to the Church of Ykford 22d.; to the 4 orders of friars at Oxford 13s. 4d., to be equally divided among them.

I also give £8 to two virtuous priests scholars at Oxford, to sing for my husband's soul and for mine, and to come to my year's mind held at Waterstoke for 2 years.

To Mary Wescott I bequeath £3 6s. 8d. towards her marriage, with a featherbed, a bolster, &c. &c.; to Agnes Ewstas 40s., a featherbed, a bolster, &c. To Sybil Barker 40s., to John Fowler a standing cup with a cover when he attains the age of 21 years; if he should not live so long then I will that his brother Edward have the said cup. To Bridget Fowler a 'serkelett sett w^t perlys'; to Bridget Raleigh a flatt piece of silver; to John Wellysbourne £20 in sheep & other cattle, with all the stuff in his chamber.

I will that my housholde stand and be kepte hole tyll my monethes mynde be past. And then I will that the outwards servants called hyndes have their quarter wage and their beddg they lye yn. My feoffees in all my lands & tenements in 'Stanys' in Co. Midd. I will shall stand & be feoffees after my decease to the use of John Batter my servant for his life, he to keep the same in repair; after his decease I will that an estate be made out of the said premises to Thomas Fowler cousin & heir apparent to my brother Thomas Fowler & to his heirs for ever, if he be then living, otherwise I will that the premises be sold by my Executors, & the money to be distributed for my soul. I will that my feoffees in Dachett, Southlee, Upton, Farnham, Stokepugies, Eastburham and Chippenham in Co. Bucks immediately after my decease do suffer my executors to take the issues and profits of all the lands & tenements aforesaid towards the performance of this my will until such time as they may make sale of all the premises, and when sale thereof has been made to such persons as my Executors shall think most convenient, then I will that my feoffees make a sufficient estate in the law of all the said lands & tenements to such persons to whom the sale shall have been made. When this has been done I will that my Executors pay to Edward Raleygh for his Exhibūcon 20 marks in money, & to Thomas Fowler abovementioned 100 marks.

The residue of all my goods I give to Sybil Chamberleyn, Thomas Langstone, John Bowes, & John Wellyborne whom I ordain my Executors, and I will them to dispose of all my goods &c. for the health of my soul 'and myn husbonde souls Thomas Danvers & Robert Breknoke,' and for the souls of my father & mother, and for the souls of David Breknoke Margaret and John, and for all Christian souls. I ordain Sir Thomas Ynglesfeld Knt. supervisor of this my will.

Witnesses, Sir Robert Wright, Sir Robert Barker, Sir Robert Yevan, John Batter and John Fulmer.

Proved on the 29th day of June 1511.

The Raleighs* whom Dame Sybil mentions belonged to the even then ancient Warwickshire family of that name. The first of the name of whom we have mention was Sir Henry, of Farnborough, who married Isabel, daughter and coheir of Sir John Pincherdon. Their son John married Joan de Grey, of Rotherfield. Sixth in descent from John and Joan was Sir Edward Raleigh, of Farnborough, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Ralph Verney, sister to the Beatrice Verney who married Henry Danvers. Sir Edward was sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester 7 Edward IV. He left money to the abbot and monks of Combe, to pray for his soul and the souls of Ralph Verney and his wife Emma, father and mother of his wife Margaret.

Sir Edward had a son, another Sir Edward Raleigh, who married Anne, daughter of Sir William Chamberlyn, or Tankerville. The Bridget Raleigh to whom Dame Sybil leaves 'a flatt piece of silver' was probably Bridget,† the daughter of Edward Raleigh and Anne Chamberlyn. The Chamberlyns were otherwise connected to the families of Fowler and Danvers,* Richard Chamberlyn having married Sybil Fowler, daughter of Dame Sybil's nephew Richard.

---

* Dugdale's 'Warwick,' vol. i., p. 529, and Harleian Society's vol. xii., p. 77.

† This lady took as her second husband Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby, near Culworth. Sir John had three wives, of whom Bridget Raleigh was

The Mary Wescott or Westcote† to whom Dame Sybil Danvers left a legacy was descended from the Matilda Quatermayn who married Thomas Littelton, of Frankley, Worcester, and had by him a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Westcote. Thomas had a son, Thomas, of much legal fame, a judge *temp.* Edward IV., who took his mother's name Littelton, and another son, Guy Westcote, who married Alice Greenvile, of a Gloucestershire family: they had a son, Thomas Westcote, who married Mary, daughter and heiress of Westcote, of Porlock, Somerset. Probably it is this Mary Westcote‡ whom Dame Sybil mentions in her will.

The Wellesbourne‡ family were connected with that of Danvers by the marriage of Elizabeth, sister to Sir Thomas Danvers, with Thomas Poure of Blechingdon, whose daughter Margaret married Thomas Wellesbourne of Wickham and West Hanney. Dame Sybil's executor, 'John Wellysborne,' was probably Sir John Wellesbourne, of Fulwell, Oxon, son to Thomas Wellesbourne and Margaret Poure.

Of Dame Sybil's executors, Thomas Langston was son to John Langston and Amys Danvers. Sir Thomas Englefield, the superviser of the will, married Margery, daughter of Richard Danvers half-brother to Dame Sybil's first husband, Thomas Danvers.

We now come to William Danvers, the second son of John

---

the first (Betham's 'Baronetage,' vol. i., p. 87). They had three sons—Erasmus, George, Anthony—and two daughters, one of whom married John Dryden, Esq. Sir John died seized of all the possessions of the monks of Canons Ashby. Edward, his grandson, succeeded to part of his estates, and the remainder went to John Dryden, from whom the present baronet, Sir Henry Dryden, of Canons Ashby, is descended.

* Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., p. 235, and vol. xv., p. 146.

† Westcote, Harleian Society's vol. vi., p. 302. Westcote's 'Devonshire,' edited by G. Oliver and P. Jones, xii., 621. 'Visitation of Devon,' by F. T. Colby. Also 'Lyttelton Charters at Hagley,' by J. H. Jeayes.

‡ Ashmole's 'History of Berks,' edition 1723, vol. iii., p. 299, and Harleian MS., 1081, fol. 61.

Danvers and Joan Bruley. His great-granddaughter, Dorothy Raynsford, married John, great-grandson of his half-brother Richard, thus linking the descendants of the two wives of John of Colthorpe, and William Danvers is therefore in the direct line of descent of the present family of Danvers.

William was born about the year 1430. In the year 1487 (December 17) he was made one of the King's Justices 'de banco,' and in the following year (February 5, 1488-89) one of the Justices of the Common Pleas.* He married Anne,† daughter and heiress of John Pury, of Chamberhouse, Thatcham, Berks, by whom he had several children, of whom six—John, Thomas, William, Anne, Alice, and Isabel—survived him.

William appears, with his brothers Thomas and Richard, and with their kinsmen Langstons and Fowlers, in many deeds recorded in the Close Rolls and Fines, and amongst the muniments of Magdalen College. The earliest mention of his name which we have been able to find is in the year 1464. In the year 1467 he sat as member for Taunton, and again for the same borough in the Parliament of 1472.

The Parliament of the year 1467 was opened by William, Bishop of Lincoln, in the absence of George, Archbishop of York, who was Chancellor. This was the George Neville, brother to the Earl of Warwick, whose arms, though he was Chancellor to Edward of York, appeared in the windows of Waterstock House along with those of Waynflete, the Lancastrian Bishop of Winchester. But, two or three years before the period in question, a quarrel had arisen between the Nevilles and the King, because of the latter's marriage with Elizabeth Grey (Woodville) at a time when Warwick was negotiating for him an alliance with Bona of Savoy. The quarrel became an open rupture, and, as a consequence, Lord Chancellor Neville, when dismissed from office, joined his brother in a secret league with Queen Margaret and the Lancastrians. Thus it came about that George, Archbishop of York, was absent at the opening of this Parliament, and that Thomas Danvers placed his arms, with those of William Waynflete, in a window of Waterstock Church.

---

* Materials for the history of the reign of Henry VII., Rolls series, vol. i., pp. 217, 237.

† About 1470-75. His eldest son, John, was aged 26 and more when William died in 1504.

Of this Parliament Sir John Say, who was not, however, as yet brother-in-law to William Danvers, was Speaker, and to him, and to William and his fellow-members, the King made a speech as follows:

'John Say, and ye sirs, come to this my court of Parliament for the Commons of this my realm. The cause why I have called and summoned this my present Parliament is that I purpose to live upon mine own, and not to charge my subjects but in great and urgent causes, concerning more the weale of themselves, and also the defence of them and of this my realm, rather than mine own pleasure, as heretofore by Commons of this lande hath beene done and borne unto my progenitors in time of need. Wherein I trust that yee sirs and all the Commons of this my land will be as tender and kinde unto me in such cases as heretofore any Commons have been to any of my progenitors. And for the good-will, kindness, and true hearts that yee have borne, continued, and shewed to me at all times heretofore I thanke you as heartily as I can. Also, I trust you will continue in time coming; for which, by the grace of God, I shall be to you as good and gracious a King, and reigne as righteously upon you as ever did any of my progenitors upon Commons of this my realme in days past, and shall also in time of need apply my person for the weale and defence of you and of this my realme, not sparing my body nor life for any jeopardy that might happen to the same.'

The Parliament was frequently prorogued because of the unquietness of the times, but met for serious business in May, 1468, when the Chancellor showed how much the King had done at home and abroad to restore the poor estate to which the crown had fallen, and especially that he had allied himself with the Dukes of Burgundy and Brittany for the recovery of France and the King's patrimonies. Subsidy was granted, bills of attainder were dealt with, the Queen's dower was confirmed, many good laws were made for the encouragement of the woollen manufactures of the country; and a Bill was brought in, aimed probably at the Lollards, against such as should rob churches of pax, cope, Mass-books, etc.; such were to be deemed traitors, and to be burnt without benefit of clergy. This Parliament appears to have been terminated by the rebellion which Warwick instigated, and which for a time made the King his prisoner.

In the year 1472 William Danvers again sat in Parliament for Taunton, and with him in that Parliament was his brother Thomas, who sat for Downton. In the year 1487 William Danvers was raised to the Bench.

On the death of his brother Thomas, William Danvers inherited the manors of Adderbury, Colthorpe, and the family property in Banbury, Bourton, Cropredy, Milton, and elsewhere. Neither he nor his eldest son and heir, John, lived at Waterstock, for the manor house was to remain for life in the possession of Dame Sybil, who outlived them both. Indeed, Sir Thomas and his father were the only male members of the Danvers family who lived at Waterstock as lords of the manor, for when Dame Sybil died, John's son was a child of three or four years old, on whose death, not long after, the Waterstock property went to Thomas Cave, in right of his wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters of John Danvers.

As we learn from his will, William Danvers bought property at Upton and Ratley, in Warwick; and Dugdale* tells us that 'William Davers, afterwards knight, bought the manor of Upton from Morgan Kydwelly, and depopulated one messuage, and enclosed twenty-eight acres of land and two hundred acres of pasture, from whom it lineally descended to John Danvers, lord thereof in 1640, from which family it came to the Archers of Tysoe.' William also bought property at Iver and Langley, in Buckinghamshire, and the manor of Chiselhampton and Grove, as well as lands there, and in Henley-on-Thames, and in Rotherfield-Grey.

With his wife, Anne Pury, he obtained as dowry the manor of Chamberhouse, and to this he added land which he bought in Thatcham, the parish of which the manor formed a part. The manor house has disappeared, nor could we with certainty learn its site, but it probably stood near to where is now Chamberhouse manor farm, on the banks of the Kennet, a little south of Thatcham. In its time the house must have been one of some importance, for in the year 1447 John Pury, lord of Chamberhouse, had the King's license to embattle his manor-house and to impark three hundred and forty-four acres of land.

---

* Dugdale's 'Warwick,' vol. i., p. 541, refers to Close Roll, 30 Henry VI., d. m. 24.

William Danvers was buried in the church at Thatcham, where his tomb remains. Amidst all the tumult of the time his was a quiet life, for while the barons were slaying their fellows in battle or by the sword of the executioner, Sir William, at Westminster or on circuit, was dispensing justice, and upholding amongst the commons of England the majesty of the law. While amongst the nobles the slaughter was so great that of the baronage of the Conqueror scarce a single male representative remained, the Danvers family were adding manor after manor to their inheritance, and left many sons to carry on the line of their descent. They were, indeed, a typical family of the middle class of England—a class already strong in the land, and destined to become for a season its greatest power—the class from which the makers of the present England were to spring.

William Danvers' will has been preserved, and a full abstract of it follows :

Will of William Danvers. (5 *Holgrave.*)

In the name of God Amen. The 18th day of April 1504 (19 Hen. VII.), I William Danvers Knt. one of the Justices of the Common Bench of the said Lord the King, do make my will in manner following.

I give my body to be buried in the parish church of Thacham if I happen to die in that parish.

I bequeath to my daughter Isabel towards her marriage £100 upon condition that she only marry by the advice of my two Executors.

After all my debts have been paid I give the rest of my goods etc. to Anne my wife, John Danvers my son and heir apparent, and to Thomas Danvers my son, whom I ordain my executors.

Witnesses: Master Philip Whitt M.A., Curate of the Church of Buckelbury, John Fowler, public notary, Curate of the Church of Thacham, and Sir Edward Barker, Rector of the Church of Hickeford. Given at Chamberhouse in the parish of Thacham in Co. Berks.

This a true copy of the last will of Sir William Danvers Knt., written by John Fowler, public notary.

As to the manors of Chiselhampton and le Grove and all the lands and tenements in Chiselhampton and le Grove, Henley on Thames and Rotherfeld Grey, also in Upton, Rotly, Cuteherwik and Tysho in Co. Warwick, that if out of my moveable goods there be not enough to pay my debts, then I will that the said debts shall be paid out of the money, issues and profits of the said manors and lands. After my debts and legacies shall have been contented and paid, then Anne my wife shall have all the said manors and lands for her life without impeachment of waste, and immediately after my decease she is to have all the lands and tenements in Bannebury, Cropredy and Bourton, also my tenements which I purchased in the parishes of Iver and Langley and in the towns of Colbroke, Horton, and Dachet in Co. Bucks, and in the parish of Thacham in Co. Berks, and in the town of Newtowne in Co. Southampton for her life. After the decease of the said Anne, all the lands and tenements aforesaid in Bannebury, Copredy, Bourton, Upton, Rotley, Cuytherwik and Tysho shall remain to Thomas Danvers my second son and to his heirs male; for default of such issue, to William Danvers my third son and his heirs male, and for default, to John Danvers my son and heir apparent. For default of such issue, the tenements in Bannebury, Cropredy and Bourton, which formerly belonged to John Danvers my father, shall remain to the heirs male of Henry Danvers my brother, now deceased; for default, the remainder thereof to the heirs male of the said John; for default, to the daughters of the said John my father and to their heirs, with remainder to the right heirs of the said John. For default of such issue, I will that the residue of all the tenements in Bannebury, Cropredy and Bourton, Upton, Rotley, Cuteherwik and Tysho shall remain to the heirs of my body; and for default to my right heirs for ever.

And further I will that the said Manors of Chiselhampton and Grove and the tenements in Chiselhampton, Grove, Henley-on-Thames, and Rotherfeld Grey immediately after the death of the said Anne shall remain to my said son William and to his heirs; for default, the remainder thereof successively in tail male to his brothers Thomas and John; for default, to the heirs of my body. For default of such issue, the Manor of Chiselhampton shall remain to the right heirs of John Deke for ever, and the Manor of Grove shall remain to the right heirs of the Lady Joan my mother for ever. The tenements in Henley-on-Thames and Rotherfeld Grey shall remain to the right heirs of Richard Quatermayn Esqr. for ever.

Witnesses: Master Philip Whytt M.A., Curate of the Church of Buckelbury, John Fowler, public notary, Curate of Thacham, Sir Robert Barker, Rector of the Church of Hickeford, and others.

Given at Chambrehouse in the parish of Thacham in Co. Berks on the 18th day of April 1504, 19 Hen. 7.

It is not my intention that this my will should extend to any tenements already assigned to John Danvers my son and to Margaret his wife, which they have for life. If Anne my wife survive them, then she is to have the said tenements for her life, she giving to the heirs of the said John all necessaries until they come to their full age.

After my death and after the death of the said Anne, my son John shall have all the tenements purchased by me in the Counties of Bucks, Berks and Southampton.

Proved at Lambeth on the 8th day of May 1504.

Chamberhouse William assigned to his son John, who after his father's death lived and died there, and then Chamberhouse, as directed in her husband's will, returned to

Dame Anne Danvers, who lived there till her death, in the year 1530. This we learn not only from her will, but also from the Lay Subsidy Rolls, in which, in the years 15, 16, and 18 of Henry VIII., Dame Anne Danvers heads the list of taxpayers in the parish of Thatcham. She was by her husband's desire bound to give to the heirs of John all necessaries until they came to their full age; and in all probability two of them, John and Mary, died in her house, while thence were married the other children, Anne, Elizabeth, and Dorothy. To Thomas, his second son, William left the Colthorpe (Banbury) and Warwickshire properties; but as Thomas died without male heirs, these went to William, the third son, together with the Chiselhampton, Grove, Henley, and Rotherfield estates.

Besides these three sons, who all survived him, William had four daughters*—Anne, Margaret, Alys, and Isabel. Anne, Margaret, and Alys married during his lifetime; to Isabel, who was unmarried, he left £100 as a marriage portion. Anne, the eldest, married Richard, son of Edmund Verney, of Compton-Murdack, Warwick; Margaret, the second, married John Ramsey; Alice, the third sister, married John Raynsford; and Isabel, the youngest, Martin Docwray.

Dame Anne Danvers survived her husband many years, and must have been of a great age when she died in the year 1531. To each of her great-grandchildren, the children of her grandson George, she left 20d. to pray for her. Her son Thomas died before her, and to the next son, William, she leaves her house and lands at Banbury, and all the stuffs that remained there for all the chambers. To his wife Cicely she leaves a good black gown 'purfylid' (embroidered) with velvet. To John Raynsford, of Micheltiue (Tewe Magna), she leaves two gilt salts, and to his son the new house which she had built in Thatcham; Alice, her daughter, John Raynsford's wife, she makes executrix of her will. The bequests to her daughter Isabel were to remain to the heirs of Chamberhouse for ever—alas! they remained but a short time there, for Chamberhouse was sold almost immediately after her death. In the Lay Subsidy Roll (Berks) of 38 Henry VIII., Edmund Docwray pays a large subsidy in Thatcham, but for five months only. In the roll of 3 and 4 Edward VI. and in that of 13 Elizabeth, he pays a much smaller subsidy; and in the full roll of 31 Elizabeth the name of neither Danvers nor Docwray appears amongst the inhabitants of the parish of Thatcham. Anne Danvers was buried in Thatcham Church, in the chapel 'which she had newly made in a vault of fayer bricke for her poore body, nye the stone that lyeth oon my good husband;' and doubtless, as directed, her daughter Alice bought the six torches to be held about the hearse by six poor women.

---

* Aske in the 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 20, and Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., p. 188.

In the year 1717, when Dr. Rawlinson visited Thatcham,* he saw in the chancel called '"Lady Fuller's isle," on a noble raised tombe, ye brass figure of a lady remaining, y^t^ of a man torne off; 4 escutcheons of armes remaining, a groupe of boys torne off, a groupe of four girls remaining. Of ye inscription w^h^ once round only remains this, William Danvers, late oon of the Kyng . . . of the comon place and . . . Pury of Chamberhous, in the countie of . . .' The tomb still remains in the fine parish church of Thatcham, filling the bay on the south side of the altar—a large brick tomb, surmounted by a slab of a black-coloured stone. The figures in brass which were once upon the slab are gone, as are also the shields, the groups of children, and the inscription which ran round the verge. The north side and the ends of the tomb are concealed by woodwork, but the south side, which is visible, is divided into compartments, between each pair of which was formerly a shield.

Besides Dame Anne's will, we have a curious relic of her in a memorandum which she wrote on the last leaf of a MS. New Testament. The book is said to be of about the date 1380, and was formerly in the possession of Lea Wilson, Esq. The memorandum is as follows:

Good Mr. Confessor of Sion w^h^ his brethren.

Dame Anne Danvers, widowe, sumtyme wyffe to Sir Will^m^ Danvers Knt., hoose soule God assoyle, hathe gevyn this present booke unto mastre confessor & his Brethrene encloosed in Syon entendying therby not oonly the hono^{r} laude & preyse to almighty god but also that she the moore tenderly may be commytted unto the mercy of o^{r} lord god by the hooly demerytes of mastre confessor and his Bretherne aforeseid, whiche she hertly desyrethe & specyally to remember the lyves and the soulys of suche persons hoose names heerafter be wryten.

---

* Journey to Lancaster. Rawlinson MS., 116 (Bodleian), p. 125.

The good astate of Dame Anne Danvers.

Thomas
Will^{m}
Anne
Alys
Isabell
} hir childerne Alyve

The aforesaid Anne Danvers hathe delyverd this booke by the hands of her son Thom' Danvers on Myddellent Sunday. In the 8th yeere of the reigne of King Henry the Eytethe. In the yeere of o^{r} lord god a-m. fyve hundred and seventeene Deo g'cias.

Item p^{r} Johis Pury
Isabell
Elizabeth
} uxor eis
William Danvers Milit
Johis
Johis
Margarete
} filior^{s} ei^{s} defunct.
Johis
Thome
} Fruors^{g} eis
Margarete langford.

An abstract of Dame Anne's will is appended :

Will of Lady Anne Danvers widow. (4 *Thower.*)

In the name of Almighty God Amen. The 13th day of February 1530 I Dame Anne Danvers widow do make my last will in manner following.

I give my body to be buried in the Church of Thacham in the chapel newly made by me in a vault of 'fayer bricke for my poore body nye the stone that lyeth oon my good husband and me for a remembraunce.'

I bequeath to the Mother Church of Salisbury 10s. and to the high altar of Thatcham 10s.

To my son William Danvers I bequeath the house and lands at Banbury and all my stuffs that remains there for all the chambers; also my goodly standing cup well gilt, and to my daughter Ciceley his wife one good black gown 'purfylid' with velvet.

To George Danvers my godson 6s. 8d., and to each of his children 'on lyve' 20d. to pray for me.

To my son John Raynsford Lord of Micheltiue my two gilt salts.

To my daughter Isabel Docwray I give my black chamblytt gown purfiled with velvet etc. with all the stuff of my chapel such as 'stayned cloathes' for the altar, and the best mass book and chalice; also all the implements of the great chamber.

To Edward Docwray her son and heir my great pot of 'bulleyne' brass etc., and for lack of Edward to Edmond and his heirs; also 20d. to each of her children. Provided always that my bequests given to my daughter Isabel after her death remain to the heirs of Chamberhouse for ever.

To Robert Danvers I bequeath a whole bed etc. etc.

To my daughter* Margaret Restall one of my worsted kirtles etc. and 40s. in money or cattle.

Legacies to servants:

I will that my son Docwray find an honest priest to sing in my Chapel or Chantry, Chamberhouse and to pray for my dear friends, for me and for my children, my said Chantry-house to remain to Martin Docwray and his heirs to find singing, bread, wine and wax.

To my Godson John Raynsford I bequeath my new house lately built at Thatcham, with all the ground within the pale, also £6 13s. 4d. in money.

To Sir Richard Alwood curate of Thacham 6s. 8d. to pray for me.

To my Goddaughter Anne Langton a flat piece of silver.†

The rest of all my goods I give to Alice Raynesford my daughter whom I ordain my executrix, Sir Thomas Justice Vicar of Thatcham being overseer of this my will. I will that my executrix give in alms to poor people 'peny meale' 26s. 8d.

---

* Probably a grandchild.

† The Anna Langton to whom Dame Anne leaves a 'flat piece of silver,' was her granddaughter, the daughter of Alice Raynsford, who married Thomas Langton, of Thatcham.—Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., p. 167.

also that she buy 6 torches to hold about the hearse and 6 poor women to hold them, each of whom is to have 2d.

Proved at Lambeth 20th day of May 1531.

Dame Anne's family, the Purys, were settled at an early period in Sipnam (Chippenham). John Purye of Sipnam had three sons, Thomas, Reginald, and Godfrey. Thomas was known as the 'good Pryor of Newarke' (Newark in Surrey). He was confirmed as Prior in December, 1387 (Monasticon, vol. vi., p. 386). Reginald had a son, John Purye, *alias* Sypnam, and another, Thomas, who is called 'servant to King Henry IV.' The latter married Maude, daughter of William Atmore,* of a family which, as was that of Purye, was at the time of good position in the county. Thomas and Maude had a son, John, the Pury who embattled and emparked Chamberhouse. His first wife was Elizabeth, sister of Sir John Sysley, by whom he had a daughter, Mary, who died childless; by his second wife, Isabel, daughter of —— Wawne of Beverley, he had a daughter, Anne, who was his heiress, and married William Danvers. The arms of the family were, argent on a fesse between three martletts sable three mullets of the field. A younger branch of the family established themselves in Gloucester, and became distinguished citizens of that city.†

John Danvers, son of Sir William, as we learn from his father's post-mortem inquisition,‡ was twenty-six years of age and more in April, 1504. He did not long survive his father, dying on

---

* Harleian Roll, p. v., and Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., for pedigrees of Pury and Atmore. Also Harleian MS. 1413, and Metcalfe's edition of the Visitation of Gloucester, p. 140.

† *Notes and Queries*, series 5, ix., 45, 241, 304, 423.

‡ From this inquisition (No. 62 of 1 Henry VIII.), and from those of John (Nos. 18, 63, and 82 of the same year), it appears that John inherited the Waterstock estate, the manor of Adderbury, also his father's half manor of Chilworth, and Combe Magna and Chilworth Parva, and lands in Whately, Chiselhampton, Milton, and Waterperry, in Oxfordshire. In Bucks, the manor and advowson of the church of Ickford and lands in Crendon, as well as lands in Horton, Colnbrook, Langley, and Iver, of which Richard Hampden was enfeoffed for the use of Margaret, John's wife. In Warwickshire John inherited lands in Aston Bruly and elsewhere.—Pat. Roll, 19 Henry VII., part 2.

October 30, 1509. As we learn from his will, an abstract of which is appended, he lived at Chamberhouse, and was buried in Thatcham Church. His wife was Margaret, daughter of William Hampden of Hartwell,* of a very ancient Buckinghamshire family. The heir of John Danvers was his son John, aged six months at the time of his father's death. But the son died when ten years old, and, as we learn from his inquisition (No. 43 of 9 Henry VIII.), his heirs were his sisters, Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy, aged respectively 18, 12, 11, 10 years.

Will of John Danvers. (14 *Bennett.*)

In the name of God Amen. 20th day of September 1508 (24 Henry VII). I John Danvers of Chamberhous in the parish of Thacham in Co. Berks Esqr. do make my will in manner following:

I give my body to be buried in the Church of Thacham aforesaid.

I bequeath to the Mother Church of Sarum 4s., and to the high altar of the Church of Thacham aforesaid for tithes and oblations forgotten 3s. 4d., also to the works (fabrice) of the said Church 3s. 4d.

Further I will that my Executors immediately after my death do ordain a fit priest to pray for my soul, for my father's soul, and for the souls of others my friends now deceased, and also for the souls of all faithful Christian people deceased, in the Church of Thacham aforesaid for one whole year, he to have for his salary £6.

I will that Margaret my wife shall distribute to poor people within one month after my death 40s. in money.

I bequeath to Thomas Danvers my brother a gold chain, that he may pray for my soul and for the soul of John Pury Esqr.

Further I declare it to be my will that the co-feoffees of Thomas Frowyk Knt. late Chief Justice of the Common Bench of the Lord the King at Westminster, now deceased, of & in the Manor of Waterstoke in Co. Oxon and in other the manors, lands & tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances to the same manor belonging, shall after the decease of the Lady Sybil Danvers widow, relict of Thomas Danvers Knt., make a sufficient estate of the said manor & other the premises to Anne, Mary, Elizabeth & Dorothy my daughters for their lives: after the deaths of my said daughters I will that the said manor of Waterstoke & other the premises aforesaid shall revert wholly to my right heirs lawfully begotten if my wife (who is now pregnant) shall bear a son, if not, then they shall remain to Thomas Danvers my brother and to his heirs male lawfully begotten.

---

* Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. ii., p. 302.

I will also that the said co-feoffees after my death shall make a sufficient estate to Margaret my wife of & in my manor of Alderbury in Co. Oxford with all & singular its appurtenances for her life; after her decease I will that the said manor shall remain to the right heirs of me the said John Danvers.

And I will that my said wife shall pay to the Abbot & Convent of Reading for the lands belonging to the said Monastery and now occupied by me as much as they in their conscience shall wish to take, from the time of my father's death until the time of my own death. The residue of all my goods I give to Margaret my wife whom I make my sole Executrix.

Proved at Lambeth 4th day of May 1509.

Of the sisters, Anne was the first to marry. In the year 1518,* Reginald Digby, her husband, was granted possession of her property, she being one of the four sisters of John Danvers. In the year 1546, Reginald Digby, in right of his wife Anne, presented to the rectory of Horton, Bucks (Gyll's 'Wraysbury,' p. 209).

In the year 1518, William Boughton, squire of the body to the King, was granted the wardship of the other sisters, Mary, Elizabeth, and Dorothy. In the year 1523,† Nicholas Hubbord had livery (possession) of the lands of Dorothy Danvers, his wife, and in connection with this is a note of the death of the fourth sister, Mary. Dorothy was to have her share of the estate of her brother John, and of her sister Mary; and further, the portion which would come to her of the lands of Ann, Lady Danvers, widow of Sir William.

---

* Rolls Series, 'Letters and Papers of the Time of Henry VIII.,' vol. i., p. 131.

† See Burke's 'Heraldic Illustrations,' plate 82. John, son of Nicholas Hubard, or Huband, was sheriff of Warwick 18 and 35 Henry VIII. Their descendants are still living. Nicholas died in 1554.

In February, 1522,* license is given to Thomas Cave to take possession of the inheritance of his wife, Elizabeth Danvers. Thus were the children and property of John Danvers disposed of. By some arrangement amongst them the manor of Waterstock and the advowson of the church, and the manor and advowson of the church of Ickford, with the land in Crendon, became the sole property of Elizabeth Cave and her husband. Their representatives sold Waterstock some time before the year 1615 to Sir George Croke,† a famous judge, who passed the last years of his life there, and whose monument remains in the church. The Crokes were connected with the Caves‡ by marriage, for Sir George's Croke's grandmother, Prudence, was sister to the Sir Thomas Cave of Stanford who married Elizabeth Danvers.

By the Crokes the property was sold to the Ashhurst family, whose representative, W. H. Ashhurst, Esq., is now lord of the manor of Waterstock in succession to the families of Foliot, Bruley, Danvers, Cave, and Croke. In the year 1780 Sir William Ashhurst pulled down the old manor house, and built the present Waterstock House close to, but not upon, the old site.

Thomas,‡ the second son of Sir William Danvers, married Eleanor Lyford, but he left no issue, and was dead in the year 1524, when we learn from the Lay Subsidy Rolls that Alianor Danvers, no doubt his wife, was taxed in Nethrop and Cothropp, and made the highest payment there.§ His father bequeathed to Thomas the Banbury and Warwickshire property, to go in default of male issue to his brother William.

---

* Vol. v., Rolls Series, p. 892. See also Gyll's 'History of Wraysbury,' p. 209.

† Sir Alexander Croke's 'History of the Croke Family,' vol. i., p. 563. In same work, history and pedigree of Cave family.

‡ Aske in 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 20; and for pedigree of Lyford, 'The Genealogist,' vol. v., p. 286.

§ Oxon Lay Subsidy Rolls, $\frac{161}{178}$ and $\frac{161}{198}$.

William married Cicely Done, of the old Cheshire family of that name; she and her son George are mentioned in Dame Anne's will. From William sprung three branches of the family tree, the Danvers of Banbury, Adderbury, and Warwickshire, who will be noticed in another chapter.

Of the daughters of Sir William and Ann Pury, the eldest, Ann, married Richard Verney, son of Edmund Verney, of Compton, Warwick.* Edmund died in the year 1494, when Richard, his son and heir, was thirty years of age, 'which Richard was in that esteem with King Henry VIII. that, being informed of some infirmity in his head, he afforded him a special license (2 Jan., 8 Henry VIII.) that he should wear his bonnet at all times and in all places, as well in the said King's presence as elsewhere, according to his own pleasure, without the interruption of any man whatsoever.' Richard in his will bequeathed his body to be buried in the new chapel on the north side of Compton Church, where his monument, with the portraiture of himself, his wife and children, in brass, may yet be seen. The following inscription runs round the verge:

> 'Of your charitie pray for the soules of Richard Verney and Anne his wife, which Richard departed out of the present world the 28th day of September, A^{no} Dni 1527.'

Richard and Anne had nine sons and five daughters. One of the sons, Richard, married a daughter of George Raleigh, of Farnborough, of whose daughters one, Dorothy, married John Danvers, of Colthorpe, Banbury.

Alice, the second of Sir William's daughters, married Sir John Raynesford, and their descendant, Dorothy, married John Danvers of Culworth, of whom more hereafter.

Isabel, the third daughter, married Martin Docwray,† descended from an old Kendal family, one of whom, James Docwray, married Katherine, daughter of Mr. John Haspedine, or Haselden, of Morden and Chesterford, Cambridge. It was his grandson, Martin, who married Isabel Danvers. They had sons Edmund, Edward, and Anthony. Edmund and Edward are mentioned in Dame Anne's will, and they lived for awhile in Thatcham after her death (Lay Subsidy Rolls, Berks, already mentioned).

---

* Dugdale's 'Warwick,' p. 565.

† Harleian MS. 1233 and Clutterbuck's 'Hertfordshire,' vol. iii., p. 82, and Harleian MS., Visitation of Oxon, 5812, p. 9.

Margaret, the fourth of Sir William's daughters, married Thomas Ramsey, of Hedsore and Hitcham,[1] Bucks, of a family descended from Adam Ramsey, squire of the body to Richard II. Thomas and Margaret had a son, Thomas, who married Parnell, daughter and coheir of Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

We have yet to notice a son and two daughters of John Danvers and Joan Bruly. Henry, their third son, was a citizen of London and a mercer, which may mean that he was a mercer by trade, or merely that he was a member of the Mercers' Company. Baker, in his 'History of Northampton,' states that he was cofferer to King Henry VIII. 'The cofferer,' writes Cowel, 'was a principal officer of his Majesty's Court, next under the Comptroller, that in the compting house and elsewhere hath a special oversight of other officers of the household for their good demeanour in their offices.'

Henry Danvers married Beatrice, daughter of Sir Ralph Verney, of Middle Claydon, who, like his son-in-law, was a citizen and mercer of London. They had three daughters, one of whom, Agnes, married Richard Croke, and was, we believe, the mother of the Richard and Robert Croke (see Aske's pedigree) who are mentioned in her uncle Thomas Danvers' will. Dorothy, the second daughter, married Thomas Dayrell, of an ancient family which came from Airele, in Normandy, at the time of the Conquest. Thomas was Sheriff of Bucks and Beds in 1495, and was buried at Lillingstone-Dayrell. The Dayrells still hold the manor, and have a well-sustained pedigree reaching back to the Conquest.

A third daughter, Emma, was in 1520 unmarried (Aske's pedigree of the Danvers family in vol. i., 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.').

Besides these daughters, Henry Danvers had a son, John, who died young, and was buried in the church of Aldbury,

---

* See Visitation of Bucks, Harleian MS., 1533, p. 616, and Visitation of Oxon, Harleian MS., 5812, p. 9.

Herts, where some of his mother's family are also buried. Against the west pier of the chancel-arch is a brass plate of small size, less than a foot in height, bearing the effigy of a young man, or boy, habited in a robe which reaches to his feet, with tight-fitting sleeves. He wears the pointed shoes of the period, and has a girdle round his waist, from which depends a pouch, or purse. His hair falls long over his shoulders, but is cut short across the forehead. Beneath is the inscription :

> 'Hic jacet Johēs Davers filii Henric. Davers Mercaria Londe q quidē Johēs obiit xxviii. die Augustīi A° Dm̃ MCCCCLXXVIII. cuj aīe ppciet deus.'

Henry Danvers, as we learn from the Coram Rege Rolls (Hilary term, 2 Richard III., No. 7), lived in the parish of St. Vedast, and from his house Richard Pole abducted the young Edward Stradling, a story to which we shall return hereafter. We have no record of the death of Henry, but he was dead when his brother William made his will in the year 1504. He is noticed in three or four of the Hustings Rolls of the City of London.

The father of Henry's wife was Sir Ralph Verney, a notable man in his day, Lord Mayor of London in 1465, and Member of Parliament for London the following year. He purchased Middle Claydon, Bucks—where his descendants are still seated—from the Zouch family. Sir Ralph was succeeded by his son, Sir John, who was buried first at Ashridge, whence, after the Dissolution, his remains were removed to Aldbury Church. Sir Ralph had another son, Ralph, of King's Langley, and two daughters, of whom one, Margaret, married Sir Edward Raleigh, of Farnborough, Warwick, and the other, Beatrice, married Henry Danvers.

The Verney family were otherwise related to that of Danvers, for Sir Ralph Verney, father of Beatrice Danvers, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Pole,* whose second wife was Bona, sister to Henry Danvers. Sir Geoffrey was, therefore, grandfather to Beatrice, and husband of her sister-in-law, Bona Danvers. Sir Geoffrey Pole, of the Welsh family of Pull, or Poule, of Worrall, Cheshire, held the manors of Ellesborough, near Aylesbury, and of Wythurn, in Medmenham. His first wife was Edith, daughter of Sir Oliver St. John, of Bletsoe, by his wife, Margaret Duchess of Somerset, and half-sister therefore to Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII. Sir Geoffrey was, therefore, near of kin to the King, and to this the advancement of his eldest son, Richard, may be ascribed. Richard Pole was Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Arthur, Prince of Wales, and was subsequently married by the King to Mary Plantagenet, Countess of Salisbury, a match of which we shall have more to say hereafter. Sir Geoffrey Pole died in the year 1474. He desired, in his will, that he might be buried in the church of the Monastery of Bisham in the same grave with his first wife Edith. To his wife Bona he left his mansion near the abbey for her life and a silver cup.

---

* Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 178. Lansdowne MS., No. 260, p. 106*b*. Harleian MS., No. 1412, p. 1-8. *Notes and Queries*, series 2, vol. xi., p. 77, and series 1, vol. v., p. 164. Philip's 'Life of Reginald Pole.' Test. Vetusta (Nicholas), p. 338, and Dugdale's 'Baronage,' vol. ii., p. 292.

Bona Pole also appears in two of the records of Magdalen College, Oxford (Corston, 11 and 18), in which she is described as widow of Sir Geoffrey Pole, and resigns, as do her brothers then (1482) living, William and Henry, their rights in the manor of Corston.

Elizabeth, the other daughter of John Danvers and Joan Bruly, married Thomas Poore,* of Bletchingdon, Oxon, descended from the famous Bishop of Salisbury, whose strange career we have already noticed. Gentischivre le Poer,† of Ottendun, or Odington, was the contemporary of Robert Chevauchesul and his sister, Emma Danvers, and is frequently mentioned in the early charters of Thame Abbey. His son Walter was a Justice Itinerant in the year 1227, and his grandson William signs as a witness to many of the charters of Bicester Priory; he is found also as of Odington in the Roll of the Hundreds. In the year 1303 the manor was held by another Walter, who was succeeded by Roger le Poer, whose grandson Thomas,* of Blechingdon, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Danvers, of Colthorpe. They had two sons and three daughters; one of the latter married Sir Robert Brudenell, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the other, Margery, married Thomas Wellesborne.

---

* The Poures are not to be confounded with another family of nearly similar name, the Le Poers, Pohers, or Powers, descended from a noble family of Brittany of that name.

† Dunkin's 'History of Oxfordshire,' vol. ii., p. 108. Kennett's 'Parochial Antiquities,' vol. i., p. 496. Lee's 'History of St. Mary's, Thame.'

---

* Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., p. 209.

CHAPTER VII.

ANCESTRY OF ALICE VERNEY AND JOAN BRULEY.

JOHN DANVERS, of Colthorpe and Prestcote, was twice married —first to Alice Verney, and secondly to Joan Bruley—and the children of both marriages are represented by the present family of Danvers, since John Danvers, of Culworth, fourth in descent from the marriage of John Danvers and Alice Verney, married his third cousin, Dorothy Raynsford, fourth in descent from John Danvers and his second wife, Joan Bruley.

Alice Verney was the daughter and heiress of William Verney, of Byfield, Northampton, a village about eight miles north-east from Banbury, and four miles distant from Culworth. From a deed, a copy of which has been preserved amongst the Rawlinson MSS. (B., 283) in the Bodleian Library, we learn that in the year 1399 (23 Richard II.) Alice Verney was at the time married to John, son of Richard Danvers, of Banbury, and that they held in Byfield a virgate of land as the gift of her father, William Verney, of Byfield. The deed also mentions William Verney's wife Juliana, his father William, his mother Elena, and his uncle John. The deed runs as follows:

'Sciant &c. quod ego Willelmus Verney de Byfild dedi &c. Johanni Scot de Bannebury, Willelmo Grey de Bourton parua, Johanni Cook de Byfield et Roberto Gillun de eadem villa omnes terras &c. in Byfild predicta excepta vna virgata terre in predicta Byfeld quam Johannes filius Ricardi Danuers de Banbery et Alicia vxor eius tenent de dono meo et Juliane vxoris mee sibi et heredibus &c. preterea concessi omnia terras

&c. que Elena mater mea tenet &c. ex dimissione Johannis Auunculi mei vel Willelmi patris mei et que post mortem eiusdem Elene ad me et heredes meos reuertere debent integ' remanere antedictis Johanni Willelmo, Johanni et Roberto. Habenda et tenenda omnia &c. Johanni, Willelmo, Johanni et Roberto. Data apud Byfield die Martis prox. ante festum Sancti Michaelis Anno Regni Regis Ricardi 2 post conquestum vicesimo tertio. Testibus Thom. de Croppry, Johan. Stutesbury, Will Hochekynes et aliis.'

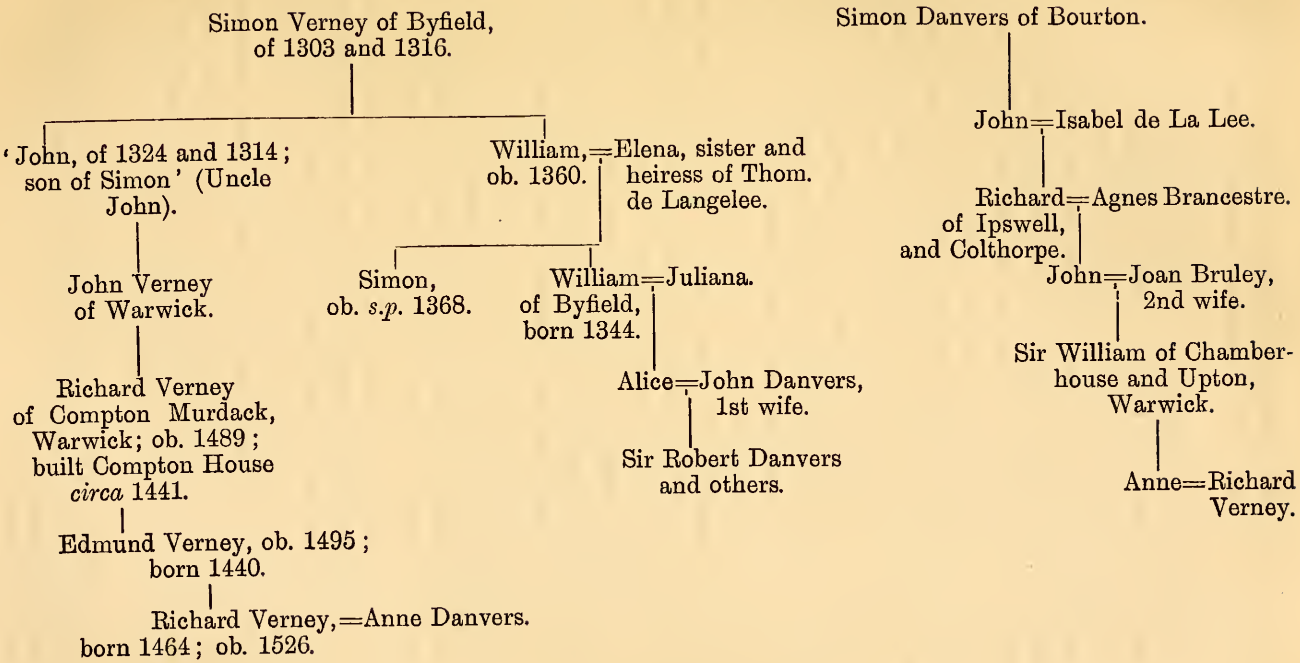
As will be noted presently, the elder William Verney died about the year 1360, leaving as his heir his son Simon Verney, who died in the year 1368, and was succeeded by his brother and heir, William Verney, the father of Alice Danvers. William Verney, as we learn from his brother Simon's post-mortem inquisition, was born in the year 1344, and was, therefore, about fifty-four years of age at the time of his daughter's marriage with John Danvers.

The earliest notice that we have of the presence of the Verney family in Byfield is in a charter (Harleian 85, A. 37), *circa* 1230, which refers to the neighbouring village of Charwelton.* Dom. Simon de Verni is one of the witnesses, and in a subsequent charter of the series (84, D. 56) he is called of Byfield and Charwelton. The charters in which he or his successors bearing the same name are mentioned are numerous, and the series extends from *circa* 1230 until the year 1316 (Harleian 84, E. 44). In the year 1278 (Rotul. Hundred.) Simon Verney holds land in Charwelton, and in the year 1303 Alan Lord Zouche enfeoffed Simon Verney of half a fief in Byfield (Baker's 'Northamptonshire,' vol. i., p. 485). In the year 1314 the heiress of Alan has seisin of his lands (Close Roll, 8 Edward II., M. 32), amongst them of half a fief, worth 100 shillings, held by Simon de Verney in Byfield. The Parliamentary writs of the year 1316 (vol. ii., Division 3) show that Simon de Verney was at the time one of the lords of Byfield, while in 1360 the heir of William Verney held half a fief in Byfield of the representative of Lord Zouche (Baker). Vincent (College of Arms MS., Vincent 38) tells us that in the same year, 1360, William Verney held half a fief in Byfield. He is no doubt the William Verney whose heir Baker mentions, and if this is so, he (William) died in the year 1360. Then in the year 1368 we have the inquisition (42 Edward III., No. 57) of Simon Verney, who died in June of that year, and whose heir was his brother William, aged at the time twenty-two and more. As William was aged twenty-two in the year 1368, we may reasonably assume that his elder brother Simon was also not of age in the year 1360, and this is why Simon is then spoken of, not by name, but as 'heir of William.' The younger William we identify with the William of Byfield of 1399, who was father of Alice; son, therefore, of the William who died in or about the year 1360, whom we take to have been the son of Simon Verney of Byfield of 1303 and 1316, and grandson or great-grandson of Simon de Verni of Byfield and Charwelton of the year 1230.

---

* Charwelton charters in register of Bittlesden Abbey (Harleian MS., 4714). Simon de Vernai, sometimes Vernie, or Verney, often appears as a witness. See also Miscel. Charters, Aug., Record Office, vol. xi., in which Simon and John de Verney appear in Byfield Charter, No. 107, which is not dated, but caligraphy and witnesses evidence of late Edward I.

But we have an additional and very curious piece of evidence that the Simon Verney whose inquisition was taken in 1368 was brother to the William Verney, the father of Alice Verney, and it is one which depends upon the evidence of the armorial bearings of the family. Vincent tells us that the arms of Alice's father were 'gules two bars, in chief two bucks' heads cabossed or,' and the shield of John Danvers, as given by Vincent, is that of Brancestre impaling these arms. But these were never the arms of the Verneys of either the Buckinghamshire or Warwickshire branches of the Verney family, while in support of Vincent's assertion that they were the arms borne by William, father of Alice, we have the fact that they were quartered by the descendants of John Danvers and his wife, Alice Verney, but not by those of John Danvers and his second wife, Joan Bruley. Whence did William Verney derive these arms? We believe we can show that he had them from the family of de Langelee, hereditary keepers of Whichwood Forest, whose heir and representative was Simon Verney—the Simon Verney who died in the year 1368, and whose heir was his brother William, the father of


Simon Verney of Byfield, of 1303 and 1316.
'John, of 1324 and 1314; son of Simon' (Uncle John).
John Verney of Warwick.
Richard Verney of Compton Murdack, Warwick; ob. 1489; built Compton House *circa* 1441.
Edmund Verney, ob. 1495; born 1440.
Richard Verney,=Anne Danvers.
born 1464; ob. 1526.
William,=Elena, sister and heiress of Thom. de Langelee.
ob. 1360.
Simon, ob. *s.p.* 1368.
William=Juliana.
of Byfield, born 1344.
Alice=John Danvers, 1st wife.
Sir Robert Danvers and others.
Simon Danvers of Bourton.
John=Isabel de La Lee.
Richard=Agnes Brancestre.
of Ipswell, and Colthorpe.
John=Joan Bruley, 2nd wife.
Sir William of Chamberhouse and Upton, Warwick.
Anne=Richard Verney.

Alice. But to show that the arms of William Verney of Byfield were those of de Langelee needs a somewhat long digression.

Whichwood was formerly one of the royal forests, and extended westwards of Eynsham and Woodstock over a considerable portion of North Oxfordshire. The bailiff of the forest held in right of his office the manor of Langelee, or Langley. At Langley, which is and was in the parish of Shipton, the King had a house, and the walls of 'King John's house' are still shown. Langley was occasionally the residence of the Kings till the reign of Charles I., and Langley remained attached to the Crown until the recent enclosure of Whichwood Forest (Shirley's 'Deer Parks of England,' p. 135).

From the 'Rotuli Hundredorum' we learn that in 1278 a certain Thomas de Langelee was bailiff or forester of Wychwode,* and he was succeeded in the manor and office by John de Langelee, who was doubtless his son and heir, whose wife's name, as we learn from an Oxon fine (31 Edward I., No. 146), was Joan. About the year 1305 it came to the King's ears—they were always open to catch the report of any irregularities as regards the tenantry of the Crown lands—that John de Langley had no charter or anything else to show his right to the manor of Langelee, and therefore a writ was issued for an inquisition *ad quod damnum*;† that is, an inquiry was to be made whether it was to the King's damage that John de Langelee should have possession of the manor, and what his rights to it were. A jury, whose names are given in the record, was therefore assembled, and before them the case was heard, and, after hearing evidence, they decided that John and his ancestors had from time immemorial held this office and manor *in capite* on the payment of a certain rent, and with the obligation to carry the King's horn whenever he should come into those parts to hunt; and so John became quietly seated in his ancestral office, and in the year 1316 we learn from the Parliamentary writs that he and four of his tenants were the only people living on the manor. In the year 1325 John died, and doubtless was buried in his parish church, that of Shipton. At the time of his death his son Thomas was of full age,* and he succeeded his father in the manor, and became bailiff of Wychwode Forest.† He died before the year 1368; but before his death an inquisition *ad quod damnum*‡ had been instituted to inquire whether it would be to the King's disadvantage that Thomas de Langelee should make over the manor and appurtenances to trustees, Galfrid, Parson of Shipton, and . . ., Parson of Eynford, to hold for his son and heir John,§ with remainder first to John's brother Peter, and next to their brother Simon, and this was so settled. But all three sons died within a few years of their father, for in the year 1368 we have the inquisition post-mortem of Simon Verney,‖ who was relative (*consanguineus*) and heir to Thomas de Langelee, from whom he inherited the manor of Langelee, with the bailiffship of the forest of Whychwood.

---

* Patent Roll, A.D. 1282. License to Richard de Wyliamscote to have, during minority of the heir, custody of Wiccheword forest, and of lands and heir of Thomas de Langelee.

† Inquis., 35 Edward I., No. 74*b*.

Simon de Verney did not long enjoy the manor and office, nor did his heir, his brother William, long retain it, for in the year 1369 (Oxon Fines, 43 Edward III., Nos. 67 and 66; and Inquis. ad quod damnum, 42 Edward III., second numbers, 9) we find William selling the estate, including the manor of Langley, the office attaching thereto, and land in Shipton and elsewhere, which were eventually to pass to Sir John Golafre, provision being made for an Alice, who was apparently the widow of Thomas de Langelee.

And here comes in the evidence of the shields. Shipton Church was the church of the manor of the de Langelee family, and in it we should expect to find its members buried. Now, in his gleanings of Oxfordshire, made in the year 1574, Richard Lee tells us that 'in a window of Shipton Church, with an old tomb under it, was a shield, bearing as follows: "Gules, two bars or, on a chief az. (arg. ?), two bucks' heads cabossed or." '* On the tomb the same arms were repeated. Here we have the same shield, the bars and bucks' heads, which were borne by William Verney—and this in the parish church of the de Langelees, whose office Simon de Verney and his brother William inherited—a shield, too, very appropriate to the hereditary foresters of Whichwood. The identity of the shields explains whence William Verney, of Byfield, obtained his shield, and is strong corroborative evidence of our assumption that William Verney, the father of Alice Danvers, was William, the brother of Simon Verney, who died in 1368, and was the heir of the de Langelees.

---

* Inquis. p. m., 18 Edward II., No. 29.

† Calendar of Close Rolls, 1330, Thomas de Langelee, keeper of forest of Wychewode, to have custody of Abbey of Bruerne, which for want of good rule has fallen into decay and debt.

‡ Inquis. ad quod damnum, 29 Edward III., second numbers, No. 41.

§ Miscell. Charters, Augmentation, Rec. Office, vol. xi., No. 22, Galfrid, Vicar of Shipton, makes over lands to John, son of Thomas de Langelye.

‖ Inquis., 42 Edward III., No. 57.

The shield in question, and others which Richard Lee mentions, were removed some eighty or a hundred years ago by a curate of Shipton, who wished to make use of them to ornament his house! (*Monthly Magazine*, July, 1819).

A few words regarding the subsequent history of the Byfield Verneys. Members of the family are frequently mentioned in the miscellaneous and ancient charters of the Augmentation Office, which are now at the Record Office, generally in connection with gifts to Canons Ashby Priory, which was in the parish. Baker, in his 'History of Northamptonshire,' states that in the year 1421-22, Simon and William Verney held half a fief in Byfield, and it is quite possible that the William was the father of Alice, then an old man. Again in the year 1455, a Simon Verney held a half-fief in the village, and he is the last member of the family of whom we find record there.

The Verneys, or Vierneys, came originally from Vernai, near Bayeux, in Normandy, and the earliest authentic record of them in England is that of a Simon de Vernai, who, so Dugdale in his 'History of Warwickshire,' vol. i., p. 565, tells us, married Alice Bagot, in the reign of Richard; but he adds that he cannot, for want of record, trace the descent of the Warwickshire branch of the family from him. Later authorities—Collins, in his 'Peerage of England' (Brydges' edition, vol. vi.), and Edmondson, in the 'Baronagium

---

* See also Wood MS., E. 1, Shipton (Bodleian).

Genealogicum,' vol. iv.—complete the descent, making use for the purpose of the Verneys of Byfield; but their evidences are very incomplete, and are insufficient to prove the descent. Collins does, however, so far agree with us that he makes the elder William Verney marry the sister and heiress of Thomas de Langelee.

Yet there is some evidence that the Verneys of Byfield came of the same stock as the Compton Murdack family. The armorial bearings do not help us, for, as regards the Byfield family, we are in ignorance of what they were until the time of William Verney, father of Alice Danvers, and he bore the de Langelee arms, which his father, we believe, assumed on his marriage with the heiress of that family. If, as we think is most likely, the Verneys of Compton Murdack descended from John, the brother of the elder William Verney, they would bear the coat of arms proper to the Verney family—gules three crosses recercellee or, a chief vairé ermine and ermines —which Richard Verney emblazoned in the canton window at Compton when, about the year 1441, he built the house there (Dugdale's 'Warwickshire,' p. 564). This Richard Verney was a contemporary of John Danvers, of Colthorpe, for their grand-children married (see foregoing table). John Verney,* Richard's father, was therefore the contemporary of Richard Danvers, of Ipswell and Colthorpe, and of William Verney, father of Alice Danvers. This William Verney had an 'Uncle John,' and he would correspond in date with the John Verney whom Dugdale mentions as a predecessor of John, father of Richard Verney. He is no doubt the John Verney who signs as witness to a Culworth charter (Additional 38798), dated 1297, and after Simon Verney in a Byfield charter, *temp.* Edward I., Record Office, Miscellaneous Aug., vol. xi., No. 107. Quite probably this elder John Verney may have been the John Verney, son of Simon, who in the year 1324, as we learn from the Parliamentary Writs (vol. ii., division 3), was summoned to Northampton as a man-at-arms. Further, amongst the shields which Richard Verney placed in the canton window of his new house at Compton, was that of Lord Zouch, and we have already seen that of him the Byfield Verneys held their fief. On the whole, we are of the same opinion as Collins and Edmondson—viz., that the Verneys of Byfield and Compton came of the same stock, but not in the way which those writers too readily assume.

---

* Northampton fine of 5 Henry VI., John Verney and his wife Joan, land in Creek.

About the year 1420, John Danvers married his second wife, Joan, daughter and heiress of John Bruley, of Waterstoke, and his wife, Maud Quatermayn. Her place in the Danvers pedigree is interesting, not only because the present family are lineally descended from her, but also because, at the time of her marriage, her ancestors had been, during three centuries, friends and neighbours of those of her husband. Through her father, Joan Bruley was descended from the Foliots, who, prior to the Bruleys, were lords of Waterstoke, and, through her mother, from the Quatermayns, the Chetwodes, the Bretons, the Greys of Rotherfield, the Fitz Elys and de Braies of Waterperry, and from the Russells of Bradenstoke, in Wilts.

It would be outside the limits of our history to attempt an account of all these families, but we are able, from authentic records, to show Joan Bruley's descent from them. Let us premise that Waterperry, Waterpurie, Perie, or Purie—the name in ancient records is spelt in many ways—is a village five miles due east from Oxford, and a mile and a half west of Waterstoke. The village is fortunate in possessing an unrestored church, which shows all styles of architecture from Norman to Perpendicular, and retains in its churchyard a fine cross of the Decorated period. At Waterperry lived many generations of the family of Fitz-Ellis, or Fitz-Elye, and Mr. William Ellis,* the biographer of the family, asserts that the cross-legged figure of a knight reclining on a canopied tomb in the south aisle of the church is that of one of the family.

With the manor of Waterperry the family held that of Corton, or Corston, in the parish of Hilmarten, Wilts, between Calne and Bradenstoke, and it is their former possession of this manor which enables us to verify the descent of Joan Bruley. In the year 1483 her descendant, Thomas Danvers, sold the manor to Bishop Waynflete, and its ancient title-deeds are detailed in a fine manuscript (94 Corston) of that date, which is now in the possession of Magdalen College, Oxford, to which foundation the manor was devised by the Bishop. The manuscript includes an account of the descent of the family of Danvers from William Fitz-Elys, lord of Corston and Waterperry, who died in the year 1226; the descent of the manor drawn out at length from various deeds; abstracts of these deeds, and an abstract of the deeds relating to land at Chevauncy (Clevancy, Wilts).

---

* 'Notices of the Ellises,' by W. S. Ellis, Esq., 1857-60. See also J. H. Parker's 'Architectural Antiquities of Oxfordshire.'

Subjoined is a brief abstract of the earlier portion of the manuscript. William Fitz-Elys was seized of the manors of Waterperry, Okely and Butyngden in Oxon, and of Corston in Wilts, and died in the time of Henry III., leaving two sons, William and Elias. The latter became rector of Maydebell. His elder brother, William,* had two sons, Thomas and Roger, and of these Thomas, on his father's death in 1262, became lord of Waterperry.† To Roger, his father, by a charter, gave the manor of Corston, and of it Roger was seized at his death in the year 1302. He left the manor to his son William, who died in 1318, leaving Elizabeth, his daughter and heiress, seized of it. Elizabeth married John Russell, Knt., of Bradenstoke,‡ Wilts, and had two sons, John and William. John married twice, first Alice, daughter of John Elkested, by whom he had a son, Nicholas—and we may mention in corroboration of this history that we find amongst the Oxon fines one (5 Edward III., No. 67) of the date 1331, in which John de Bradenstoke and his wife Elizabeth give lands to their son John and his wife Alice, and, failing children to them, with remainder to the right heirs of John and Elizabeth. Further, in the institutions of the Bishop of Salisbury we find in the years 1344, 1350, 1360, John de Bradenstoke presenting to Corston Chapel.

* Register of Bradenstoke (B. M., Stowe MS., 642), charters of Corston. William Fils Elie, Dominus de Corston, son of William Fils Elie, gives lands in Bradenstoke to the Priory. His wife's name is Margaret, that of his son and heir is Thomas.

† Rot. Hundredorum (1278). Roger, son of Fitz Elie, holds land in Tetenden (Tedington), Oxon.

‡ Register of Bradenstoke, Chartulary of Segre, 4 April, 12 Edward II. Corston 94. John Russell, of Segre, gives charter to the Priory.

John the younger, on his first wife's death, married Agnes,* by whom he had a daughter, Joan, and then died, predeceasing his father and mother, who died in the year 1363. Nicholas de Bradenstoke was left under the guardianship of William Hyde and John Russell. Agnes, the younger John's second wife, married Walter Botyller, and by him had a son, John Botyller, in confirmation of which we find in the Salisbury institutions in the years 1390 and 1395 Agnes, widow of Walter Botyller, presenting to Corston Chapel. In the meantime Nicholas de Bradenstoke had married Constance, and died leaving a son, William. By a family arrangement, which is detailed in the manuscript, William, son of Nicholas de Bradenstoke, was to inherit Corston manor, with remainder to John, son of Walter Botyller and his wife Agnes. But as the manuscript tells us, both William and John died of a pestilence, and now Joan Russell, daughter of the younger John de Bradenstoke and his second wife, Agnes, became heir to the manor. This all happened before the year 1390, when, as we learn from the Bishop's institutions, Agnes had again become a widow; and previous to that date Walter Botyller by a charter gave the manor to Thomas Quatermayn, who had married Joan Russell, daughter of the younger John de Bradenstoke. In the years 1428, 1432, we find Joan Quatermayn presenting to Corston Chapel.

Thomas and Joan had a son,† Richard Quatermayn, and

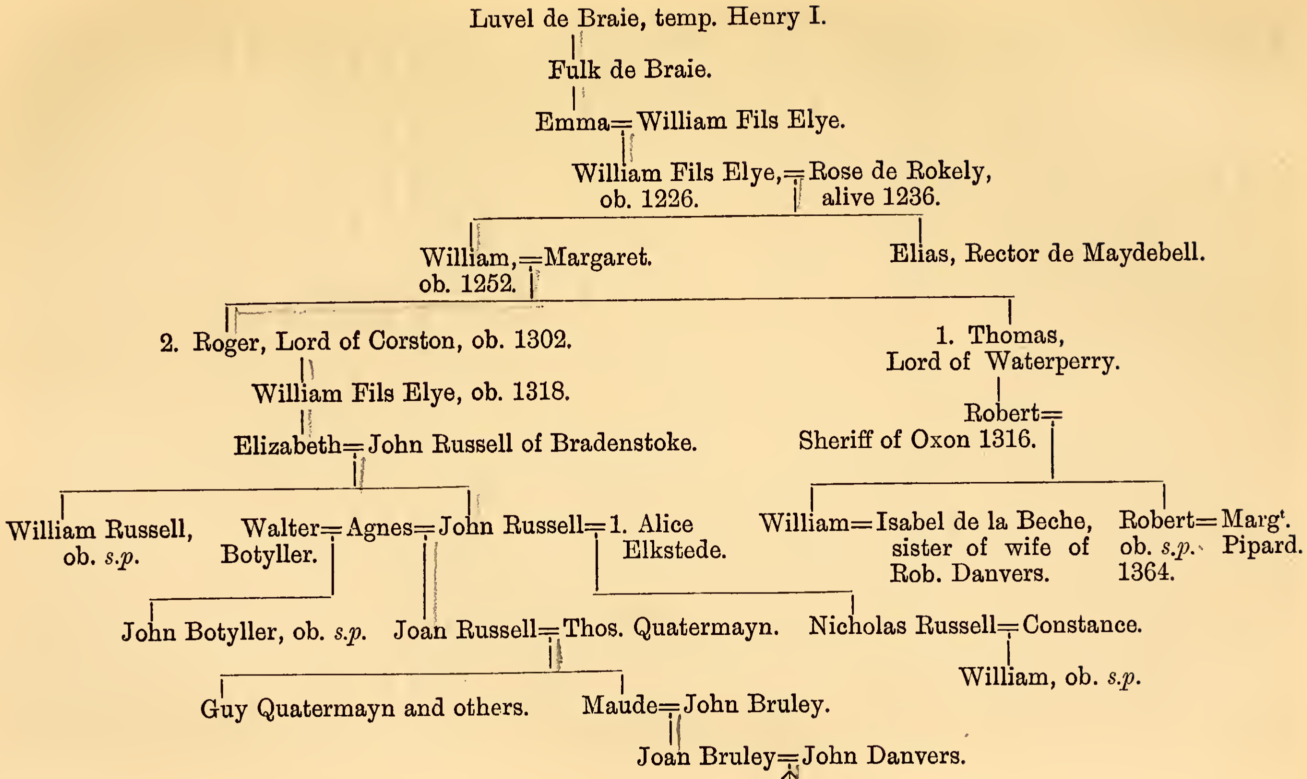
---

* Probably Agnes Godfrey, daughter of John and Matilda Godfrey.

† Schetone, in Wilts, held 1340 by Robert Russell, in 1365 by Oliver Russell (Wilts Archæolog. Soc. Journal, vol. ii., p. 284). Oliver Russell, by charter, released to John, son of John of Bradenstoke (Russell), the lands in Corston which John had as a gift of his father John. Magdalen College Records, Corston 94. In the register of Bradenstoke Priory, charters of Tockenham, is a charter, s. d., of Robert S. and H., of Robert Russell, of W. Tockenham. Robert Russell was constable of Marlborough Castle. He and Oliver Russell are amongst witnesses to a deed of 21 Edward III. 'Ancient Records,' vol. i., c. 551.

The chapel of Corston was, A.D. 1344, in the gift of the family of Russell, of Bradenstoke, by whose heiress, Joan, wife of Thomas Quatermain, it was sold in 1434 to Walter, Lord Hungerford. Lord Hungerford annexed it to the chantry of Heytesbury Church. The chapel has disappeared (Canon Jackson in vol. x. of Wilts Archæological Society's Journal).

These Russells, of Bradenstoke, were doubtless descended from the


Luvel de Braie, temp. Henry I.
Fulk de Braie.
Emma=William Fils Elye.
William Fils Elye, ob. 1226.
Rose de Rokely, alive 1236.
William, ob. 1252.
Margaret.
Elias, Rector de Maydebell.
2. Roger, Lord of Corston, ob. 1302.
1. Thomas, Lord of Waterperry.
William Fils Elye, ob. 1318.
Robert= Sheriff of Oxon 1316.
Elizabeth=John Russell of Bradenstoke.
William Russell, ob. s.p.
Walter Botyller.
Agnes
John Russell
1. Alice Elkstede.
William=Isabel de la Beche, sister of wife of Rob. Danvers.
Robert= ob. s.p. 1364.
Marg^t. Pipard.
John Botyller, ob. s.p.
Joan Russell=Thos. Quatermayn.
Nicholas Russell=Constance.
William, ob. s.p.
Guy Quatermayn and others.
Maude=John Bruley.
Joan Bruley=John Danvers.

See page 224

daughters, Matilda, or Maude, and Elizabeth; and then Thomas died, and his widow subsequently married John Credy, whom she survived. The manor went into the hands of trustees, amongst whom were Edmund and Walter Hungerford. Richard Quatermayn died childless, but his sister Maude married John Bruley of Waterstoke, and their heiress, Joan, married John Danvers of Colthorpe. Their eldest son, Thomas, thus became heir to the manor of Corston, and he sold it in 1483 to Bishop Waynflete, who devised it to Magdalen College, Oxford, which he had then recently founded.

The numerous deeds referred to in the preceding history are preserved in the muniment room of Magdalen College, and have been fully calendared. We shall note five only of them. One, 61 Corston, dated A.D. 1377, is a marriage settlement made between Walter Botyller and Thomas Katermayns of North Weston. Thomas is to marry Johanna Russell, daughter of John de Bradenstoke and Agnes, and within the year is to pay to Walter the sum of £210, and to have with Joan as dowry the reversion of the manor of Corston, and at once her father's estates in Tedyngton, Oxon, on condition that Thomas pays annually 100 marks to Constance, widow of Nicholas de Bradenstoke, for which payment his property at North Weston is made a security.

Corston 9 is a power of attorney from Joan, daughter of John de Bradenstoke and Agnes his widow, and widow of John Credie. Corston 10 is a release from William Hampden and other trustees to Thomas Danvers and Sibilla his wife of the manors of Corston, Tedyngton, and of lands in Bradenstoke, Chevauncy, and Tedyngton, which formerly belonged to Richard Quatermayn, and, failing issue of Thomas and Sibilla, to the right heirs of Matilda, sister of Richard. Corston 19, dated 1482, Thomas Danvers sells the manor of Corston to Bishop Waynflete. Corston 11 and 18, both dated A.D. 1482, William and Henry Danvers, brother of Thomas Danvers, and

---

house of Russell, of which a member, Sir Ralph Russell, acquired with his wife, Isabel Newmarch, estates in Wilts. Sir Ralph was sheriff of the county A.D. 1263. The Sir Maurice Russell who married Joan Dauntesey was a descendant of this Sir Ralph (Wiffen's 'Memorials of House of Russell').

their sister Bona, wife of Sir Geoffrey Pole, release their rights in the manor to the Bishop.

The Magdalen College manuscript commences the table of descent of the Danvers family with the name of William Fitz-Ellis, but we are able to carry the descent back a step further, and, so doing, we discover whence the family obtained the manor of Waterperry. In the year 1236 a fine passed between William Fitz-Ellis and the Abbot of Oseney, in which William mentions his mother, Rose de Rokele, and his grandmother Emma. And in an earlier record, of the time of Richard I., we find a William Fitz-Ellis (fil. Elye) appearing for Emma 'de Perie,' and claiming her lands in Corston and Oakley in right of her father, Fulk de Braie, and his father, Luvel de Braie. This William died in the year 1198; his wife was Emma (de Perie), daughter of Fulk de Braie, with whom he received the manors of Waterperry, Ockley, and Wormenhall. William Fitz-Ellis the elder, by desire of his wife Emma, gave the church of Waterperry to the Abbot of Oseney, and the grant was confirmed by his son William.*

Mr. Ellis in his history follows the descent of Thomas, the eldest son of the younger William; while the Magdalen College MS. follows that of the younger brother Roger. The descendants of Thomas Fitz-Ellis long continued at Waterperry, and one of them, another William Fitz-Ellis, married Isabel, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John de la Beche, while her sister Alice married Robert Danvers of the Berkshire family.

The Quatermayn family,† of whom one, Thomas, married Joan Russell de Bradenstoke, are said to have come to England about the time of the Conquest. Godfrey de Quatremayns was one of the witnesses to a charter of Daventry Priory in the year that Anselm died, 1109 (Dugdale's 'Monasticon,' edit. of 1682, vol. i., p. 674). The name is variously spelt —Katerman, Quaterman, Quatermayns, are amongst the spellings. Katermayn is the form used in the marriage settlement of Thomas and Jane Russell. Of late the name has been spelt Quarterman.* The coat of arms of the family is, gules, a fess azure between four dexter hands coupéd at the wrist, and the name (*quatuor manus*) is probably a nickname, derived from the deed of some ancient member of the family. The family must be distinguished from that of Katermars (*quatuor mare*), a family which came to England from Katermars, near Rouen, and were for a time amongst the great families of Lincoln and Leicester. Lucas de Quatremars finds a place (as does also Hubert Quatermain) in the Scutage Roll of the year 1165, holding a fief of Godfrey de Ridel in Northampton. The families are distinguished not only by the derivation of their names, but also by the circumstance that the Katermars early failed in the male line. Towards the end of the reign of Henry III., Geoffrey Maureward acquired Maureward in Leicester by marriage with Ada, only child of Sir Adam Quatremars of Overton-Quatremars, the last male of his house (Duchess of Cleveland's 'Battle Abbey Roll,' vol. ii., p. 324).

---

* See authorities in Mr. Ellis's history already referred to; also Abbrevat. Placitorum (R. O. publication) *temp.* Richard I.; also charter, Bodleian, No. 448; Fine, Wilts, 15 Henry III.; Fine, Oxon, 53 of 11 Henry III.; Rotul. Cancellarii Oxon, 3 John, and Kennett's 'Parochial Antiquities' (index); also Rot. cur. Regis Richard I., No. 1, M. 3, dors.

† Cf. tables of descent in Chapter VI.

The Quatremayn family had formerly large possessions in Oxfordshire at North Weston, Estcote, Rycote, Chalgrave, and elsewhere, and their descendants still remain in the county. At Tetsworth the only relic, excepting the Napp, which we found of ancient times was the name of 'Quatermayn' over a saddler's shop; doubtless the saddler was a descendant of Herbert Quatermayn, who, about the year 1200, witnessed one of the charters of the Danvers family, of Tetsworth, to Thame Abbey.

Leland, in his 'Itinerary' (*circa* 1533), writes: 'Ricot longèd to one Fulcote Ricot, after it came to one Quatremain, whose house has been famous and of right fair possession in Oxon. About Henry VI. days divers brethren of them died one after the other, and all the lands descended to Richard, the youngest, a merchant of London. He had a servant, Thomas (Richard)

---

* For notices of late members of the family, cf. Dr. Lee's 'History of St. Mary's, Thame,' p. 92. Amongst the Oxfordshire wills now at Somerset House are many sixteenth and seventeenth century wills of the Quatermayne or Catermans family.

Fowler, his clerk, a toward fellow that after was Chancellor to the Duchy of Lancaster, to whom Richard bore great favour, and was godfather to his son, to whom he left most part of his lands because he had no children.' Leland might have added, as an additional reason, or *the* reason, for this bequest, that Richard Fowler was nearly related to Richard Quatremayn, being as he was son of a daughter of Quatremayn's sister, and heir-at-law of Cicely Englefield, who was Quatremayn's wife's sister.

This Richard Quatremayn* was the son of Thomas Quatremayn, of North Weston, by his wife, Joan Russell, of Bradenstoke, grandson to an elder Thomas Quatremayn, who married Katherine Breton, and died in the year 1342.

In Dr. Lee's 'History of St. Mary's, Thame,'† a work to which we are indebted for much information regarding the Quatremayn family, will be found a pedigree of the family, and appended to it are notices which are adduced in confirmation of the pedigree. Amongst the muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford, are numerous references to members of the family, extending from the end of the twelfth to the end of the sixteenth century; and we have found mention of them in many Oxfordshire fines and in other ancient records. It would appear that from about the year 1230 two branches of the family were for many generations near neighbours in Oxfordshire; and this circumstance gives rise to great difficulty if we endeavour to place members of the two lines in a table, or tables, of descent. We believe, however, we may safely assume that the Thomas Quatremayn of North Weston, who married Katherine Breton, and died in the year 1342, was the son of the William Quatremayn of North Weston who was a minor in the year 1278. This William was, according to the ancient records, son of William and Agnes Quatremayn, whom we find concerned in an Oxon fine in the year 1254; and this William was the son, or grandson, of Herbert Quatremayn, of

---

* Seal at British Museum. Richard Quatremayn's seal, from a ring, on a helmet and short mantling a dexter hand erect, coupéd at the wrist. In the field S^r R^d quat. cabled border, A.D. 1459. See tabular pedigree in Chapter VI.

† 'History and Antiquities of the Church of St. Mary of Thame,' by the Rev. F. G. Lee, D.D. London. 1883.

Estcote and Weston, of the year 1201. Herbert was the son of the Herbert Quatremayn of the 'Liber Niger' (1165), beyond whom we are unable to carry the descent.

Thomas Quatermayne and his wife, Katherine Breton, had a son, Thomas, who married Joan Russell of Bradenstoke. Dr. Lee, in his 'History of St. Mary's, Thame,' gives them other two sons, John and Roger, of whom we know nothing further. Also, some of the later genealogists give Thomas and Katherine a son, Richard, who is said to have left a daughter, Matilda, or Maude, who married Thomas Littelton, of Frankley, Worcester. But the Visitation of Stafford* of A.D. 1583 records only that Thomas Littelton 'married . . . daughter and heir† of . . . Quatremains,' and of his name and parentage we have not sufficient record. That he was a member, or kinsman, of the North Weston family is evidenced by the presence, amongst the coats-of-arms anciently in Rycote Church, of Quatermayne impaling Littelton (Lee's Gatherings, A.D. 1574, Harleian Society's vol. v.). Richard may have been the son of the elder Thomas Quatermayne, or he may have been Richard, the son of John Quatermayne, of Chalgrove, who, with his wife Isabel, is mentioned in a Magdalen College (Chalgrove, 17 A) deed, dated 1322. This Richard, as appears from the same, the Chalgrove deeds, flourished up to, if not after, the year 1362. However, Elizabeth, the daughter of . . . Quatermayne and her husband Thomas Littleton, married Thomas Westcote, who took his wife's surname, and was the father of the famous Judge Littleton, ancestor of the present family of that name.

The shields formerly on the Quatermayn tombs in Thame Church, together with those still existing upon the walls of Rycote Chapel, evidence to the descent of the Katherine Breton (le Breton, de Breton) whom Thomas Quatermayn the elder married, from the Bretons and from the Greys, of Rotherfield. The name of the Bretons indicates their origin, and in Domesday no less than eleven of them are present, settled in different parts of England.

---

* Salt Society's Journal, vol. iii., p. 108. Burke's 'Extinct Baronetage,' and the pedigree of the Lyttelton family, given at p. xv. of Jeave's Charters at Hagley, speak of Maude's father as Richard Quatermain.

† Was she daughter, not heiress, of Thomas Quatermayne, sen.?

Dugdale, in his 'History of Warwickshire' (vol. i., p. 33), tells us that in the time of Henry I., Wolston, in Warwick, belonged to Roger de Freville, whose daughter Sybil married Robert de Chetwode, and had two sons, William and Ralph. Avicia, daughter of William, married William le Breton, of Long Itchington, Warwick, and they had a son, Guy le Breton, who married Joan, daughter of Thomas Grey, of Rotherfield, and founded a chantry in Coombe Abbey for one monk to sing Mass daily for the souls of his father William and his mother Avicia. The Breton manor of Marston long continued with their descendants, and was eventually sold by Richard Quatermayn in the year 1418 (Rot. Claus., 6 Henry V., M. 6. d.).

The manor house* of the Chetwodes was at Warkworth, about a mile east of Banbury—'a very stately house,' Anthony Wood tells us, with a gallery wherein were the arms, crests, and mottoes of many of the nobility of England. In 1629 the Chetwodes sold the house, which in 1806 was taken down. John Danvers, of Prestcote, bought thence the very fine oak-panelling, with which, early in the eighteenth century, he decorated the room which he then added to his house at Prestcote. Warkworth Church stands solitary in its churchyard on a hill near the village, and contains many interesting monuments of the Chetwodes and of their kinsmen, the Lyons.

Thomas Grey,† of Rotherfield, the father of Katherine Breton, was descended from Auchitel Grey, of a noble Norman family, who is found in Domesday Book holding Rodrefield of William FitzOsborne. Auchitel's descendants in the male line continued there till about the year 1387, when the manor and estate passed, by the marriage of Joan de Grey, descended from John, the elder brother of Thomas, to Sir John D'Eyncourt.

The fine monuments of the Quatremayn family, which corroborate the descent of Maude Bruley from the le Bretons and the Greys, still remain in the south transept of Thame Church. Formerly they stood centrally in the transept, but have now been placed altar-wise against the east wall. The monuments are two in number, and each is surmounted by a slab, on which, cut in brass, are effigies, inscriptions, and shields, of which, however, portions have disappeared. In the year 1574 the monuments were nearly perfect, and were described, and the inscriptions copied, by Richard Lee (Harleian Society's vol. v., p. 21). Sketches of the shields which were made by Sir Richard St. George are also preserved in Lansdowne MS. No. 863. The smaller tomb, of dark gray marble, is that of Thomas Quatremayn, who died in the year 1342, his wife Katherine, and their son Thomas, died 1398, and his wife Joan, and the effigies of all four, with their respective coats-of-arms above their heads, were formerly engraved upon the tomb. With these was the inscription:

---

* Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 739.

† Harleian MS. No. 874, p. 39*b*, and Dugdale's 'Baronage'; also Lansdowne MS. No. 863.

'Thomas Quatermayn of North Weston & Katherine his wyffe, daughter of Gye le Breton & Jone his wyffe daughter & heire of Thomas Graye sonne of Robert de Graye of Rotherfield knight. Ob vj of June 1342, and Thomas sone of the said Quatermayn & Jone his wyffe. Ob vj Maye 1398.'

The arms on the shields were: I., quarterly 1 and 4 Grey of Rotherfield, 2 and 3 Breton; II., Quatermayn impaling Breton quartering per fess Grey; III., quarterly 1 Quatermayn, 2 quarterly 1 and 4 Grey, 2 and 3 Breton, 3 Breton, 4 Grey of Rotherfield. The arms over the head of the wife of the second man were Quatermayn impaling argent on a bend between six fleurs-de-lys gules, a quatrefoil (Fitz-Ellis). And we may remark that it was this shield which gave rise to a mistake, repeated by many genealogists, that the younger Thomas Quatermayn married a Fitz-Ellis. We, however, know that he married a Russell of Bradenstoke, and the shield shows that the Russells assumed the arms of Fitz-Ellis, no doubt on the marriage with the heiress of that family. The lower half of the figure of the younger Quatremayn, the inscription, and all the shields, are now (1894) wanting.

The other and larger tomb, richly sculptured, is that of Richard Quatermayne, his wife, Sybil Englefield, and their son, Guy. Their effigies and shields are, or were formerly, engraved in brass on the tomb. The shields were: I., barry of six argent and azure, over all, a bend gules (Grey of Rotherfield), impaling quarterly 1 and 4 a fess azure between 4 dexter arms coupéd at the wrist argent (Quatermayn) 2 and 3 argent 2 hounds passant palewise (Breton); II., Quatermayn impaling vairée argent and gules (Gresley).* From this monument three of the shields and the head of the woman are now (1894) missing. Round the verge of the stone is an inscription as follows:

'O certyn death that now hast o'erthrown
Richard Quatremayn squyer & Sibil his wife that lie here full lowe.
That with rial Princes of counsel was true & wise famed,
To Richard Duke of York & after with Edward his son IVth named.
That founded in the church at Thame
A Chantrey & pore men a fraternyte
In the worship of Saint Christopher to be releved in perpetuyte.
They that of their almys for their soulis a Pater Noster & Ave devoutly will say,
Of holy fadurs is granted them pardon of dayes forty alway.
Which Richard and Sibil oute of this world passed in the yere of oure Lord MCCCCLX.'

The coats of arms in Rycote Church have also been preserved by the care of Richard Lee. They were very numerous, and some remain; but we shall mention only those which at present interest us—viz., Fowler, Quatermayn impaling Littleton, Quatermayn impaling Bruly, Grey of Rotherfield impaling Breton, and these impaling Quatermayn, Grey impaling Hastings, Quatermayn impaling Englefield, Lovell impaling Grey of Rotherfield, Quatermayn impaling Breton, Quatermayn impaling argent a bend between three (six?) fleurs-de-lys gules (Fitz-Ellis).

The record of the Quatermayn tombs is further corroborated by the post-mortem inquisitions of the family, of which, however, we can give an epitome only. They may be seen in original at the Public Record Office, and they are printed in Dr. Lee's 'History of St. Mary's, Thame.'

---

* Gresley—the name as it occurs in the Harleian Society's publication —is in brackets, and is, therefore, attributable to Lee's editor, and not to Lee himself. We have not been able to discover a Quatermayn-Gresley match. The arms of Gresley were vairy ermine and gules, but different branches of the family varied the tinctures. The arms quite possibly came from another source, possibly from the Gernons.

The moiety of the manor of Lavington Gernon came to Richard Quatermayne by his marriage with Sybil Englefield, and was dealt with by him. *Vide* fine of 1 Henry V., per Angliam.

The first of them is that of Thomas Quatremayns (No. 39, 22 Richard II.). Held land in Rotherfield Greys of Joan, daughter of Robert de Grey of Rotherfield. Also land in Henley of Richard le Molyns; land in North Weston of the Bishop of Lincoln by knight's service, and a burgage in Thame, also of the Bishop. Also land in Stanlake of Richard Talbot. He died May 6 last past (1398), and John, his son and heir, was aged 15 years and more.

The next is that of John Quatermayn (20, 10 Henry IV., 1409). John, son and heir of Thomas Quatremayn, died in his minority in the fifth year of the King. Guy, his brother, is his heir, and is aged 21 and more.

The next is that of Guy (32, 2 Henry V., 1414).* Holds the same property in Rotherfield Grey as did his father, and of Lord Dayncourt, son and heir of Joan, daughter of Robert Grey. Also as did his father in Henley, and in North Weston, Thame, and Stanlake. Mentions Joan, wife of John Credy, widow of Thomas Quatermayn, father of Guy. Guy's heir is his brother Richard, aged 22 and more.

Next is the inquisition of Richard Quatremayns (44, 17 Edward IV., 1477). Inquisitions taken at (1)† Aylesbury, (2) London, (3) Uphaven, Wilts, (4) Thame. His heir is Thomas Danvers, son and heir of Joan, daughter of Matilda, sister of Richard Quatermayn, aged 40 years and more.

Remainders to Richard Boteler, son of Isabel, daughter of Elizabeth, second sister of Richard Quatremayns, aged 30 years; then to Alice, wife of Thomas Walrond, second daughter of Elizabeth, aged 57 years; then to Richard Rous, son of John, by third daughter of sister of Richard Quatremayn, aged 30 years; then to Margaret, wife of Peter Fetyplace, fourth daughter of Elizabeth, aged 53 years; then to Sibilla, wife of Humphrey Forster, fifth daughter of the same Elizabeth.

The next is that of Sibilla Quatermayns (33, 1 Richard III., 1483), wife of Richard Quatremayns. Holds the manor of North Weston of the Bishop of Lincoln, also the manor of Ricott. Sibilla died May 22, 1 Edward V. Richard Fowler, son of Richard Fowler, is her heir, and 17 years of age. The manor of North Weston to pass, on Sibilla's death, to Joan, wife of Richard Fowler, daughter of Joan, wife of John Danvers, daughter of Matilda, sister of Richard Quatremayn, with remainder to (1) Richard Boteler, (2) Thomas Boteler, (3) Richard Rous, (4) John, son of Margaret Fetiplace. Joan, wife of Richard Fowler, is alive, and succeeds to the manor. Manor of Ricote.—Remainder to Richard Fowler, son and heir of Cecilia, sister of Sibilla; then to Thomas Boteler, son of Baldwin Boteler, and Isabel,* daughter of Nicholas Englefield, and Elizabeth, sister of Richard Quatremayn; then to Richard Boteler, brother of Thomas; then to Sibilla Boteler, sister of Thomas; then to Elizabeth, another sister, wife of Eustace Grenville; and, failing these, to right heirs of John de Ricote.

---

* Taken at Wallington June 16, 1414.

† Taken at Aylesbury October 28, 1477.

Richard Quatremayn, husband of Sybil Englefield, was born in the year 1393. He was member for the county of Oxford in 1423 and 1433; Sheriff, 1436 and 1454; Councillor to Richard Duke of York and to Edward IV. In the year 1449 he and his wife founded the church, or chapel, of St. Michael and All Angels, Rycote. As we learn from their post-mortem inquisitions, Richard died in the year 1477, and his wife, Sibyl, in the year 1483.

The church which the Quatremayns founded is a very interesting one, and perhaps the more so owing to its present forlorn condition. Parker, in his 'Architectural Topography of England,' calls it 'a good Perpendicular building, with a tower at the west end, and two greyhounds in place of pinnacles at the east angles. The whole is in a very genuine state, with the panelled ceiling. Most of the seats are original, open, but two large square family pews with canopies have been introduced. The font is octagon, panelled, with the original wooden cover.' We have the following notes of a recent visit to Rycote. From Thame, a pleasant walk of about three miles, through undulating, well-wooded lanes, brings one to Rycote. The church stands on a slight eminence in a small enclosure, in what was once Rycote Park. The enclosure is full of great trees, the boughs of which approach, and in many places overhang, the church. The ground is covered with brambles and tall weeds, through which here and there appears the top of a tombstone. At the south-west angle of the church is a grand old yew-tree, which must be coeval with, or older than, the church. The church has been disused about sixty years, and is apparently left to fall into ruin; but the stone of which the walls are built is so good that they retain their freshness, and the carving of the Quatremayn and Englefield shields on the west front of the tower is as sharp as when the masons left their work nearly five centuries ago.

---

* Descent of manor of Rycote, Harleian MS. 4031, 105*b*.

Within is ruin and desolation. On entering the door in the north side of the chancel one faces a huge monument to James, Earl of Abingdon, who died 1696, and who was lineally descended from John Danvers of Colthorpe. The old panelled roof remains, decorated with golden stars on a blue ground, but it has broken away in places, leaving holes through which the birds find access to their nests above; the floor of the church is covered with the dirt and rubbish which they have dropped. In 1680 the church was 'beautified,' and a hideous piece of panelling of the design and workmanship of the period was erected by way of reredos; this, happily, is rotting away. The stairs, formerly belonging to the rood-loft, now lead to a chapel or pew surmounted by a pagoda-like canopy. This, with another pew, blocks the entrance to the chancel, leaving only a narrow passage to the nave. The pulpit is of the same age, and in the same ruinous condition as the reredos. One may hope that all this seventeenth century woodwork may decay and disappear as quickly as its condition promises. On the floor of the nave is a tombstone to Margaret Tilly, wife of William Tilly, D.D., Rector of Albury and Codington, and fourth daughter of John Danvers, Esq., by Dorothy his wife, of Monks in Corsham. She died, aged 36, July 1, 1717 (see Chapter XVI., Danvers of Tockenham).

To the north of the church are some small remains of the once magnificent Elizabethan mansion of the Abingdon family. West of the church is the present farmhouse, in which is incorporated a part of the old manor house of the Quatermayns. In the north gable are old windows, now blocked, of Perpendicular work of the same age as the church. The gardens and other grounds of the old mansion are desolate; in them is a grand old cedar, of which, however, only the trunk and one huge branch has weathered the storms of hundreds of years. At a little distance from the house is a fine sheet of water, the banks choked with weeds and neglected underwood. The park is now cut up into fields, but many very fine oaks and other trees remain. For a long time two tame deer were kept near the farmhouse, that the park might as a deer-park remain unrated; but the deer escaped, and the park lost its immunities.

Rycote was once the seat of the noble family of Mandeville, one of whom has a fine monument of the Norman period in the neighbouring church of Hasely. At the time when the Chevauchesuls and William Danvers flourished in the vicinity, Geoffrey Fitz Peter, Justiciar of England, who married Beatrice de Say, descended from the Mandevilles, was Lord of Ricot, and from his wife's mother the Danvers family may claim a descent.

At North Weston two manor houses have stood from time immemorial in the hamlet; one on the hill to the north, the other in the valley below, and it is the latter one which has always been connected with the Quatermayns' manor. The ancient house was taken down about sixty years ago, only the east wing being left, and this is now occupied as a farmhouse. The ancient kitchen and offices with some low oak-panelled rooms remain, and the brewery and some of the outbuildings are perhaps of an even older period. But whether these ancient portions belong to the house which Sir John Clerke completed in 1539, or whether they may be ascribed to the manor house of the Quatermayns, could be determined only by a very thorough investigation of the building. The site is, however, beyond doubt that of the Quatermayns' house. Not far from it stood the ancient chapel or church which, according to Dr. Lee, was the earliest burial-place of the family. In the windows were emblazoned the coats-of-arms of the Quatermayns, Englefields, Fitz-Ellises, Danvers, Bruleys, and Fowlers.* Of the church nothing remains excepting the foundations, which can still be traced in dry weather.

* Lansdowne MS. No. 874.

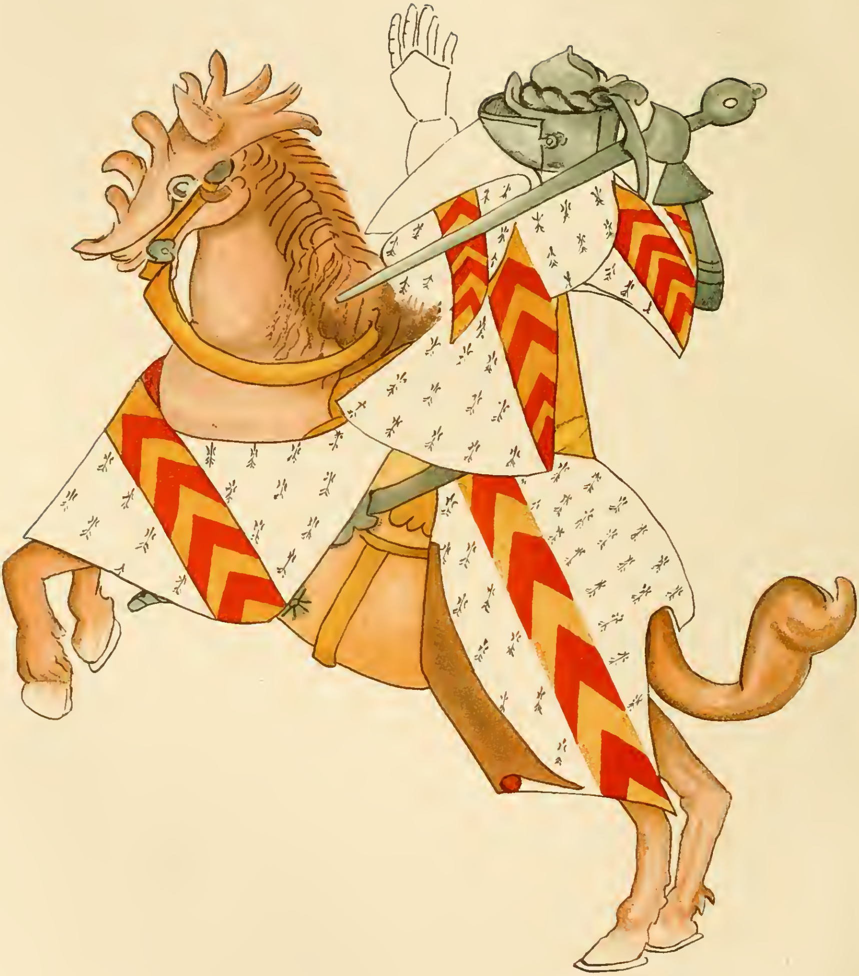
We now come to the family of Bruley, to which Joan Bruley belonged, and to their predecessors in Waterstock, the family of Foliot. Members of both these families are included in the Oxon Scutage Roll of the year 1201, which has been already noticed. In it we find the names of Richard Talemasch, Robert de Auvers, Richard Foliot, Herbert Quatremains, John de Builli (Bruilli), Robert Chevauchesul, Robert de Stokes (Wickham), Henry de Oilli, Simon de Croperi, all of them members of families which at the time were, or subsequently became, allied to the Danvers family.

The Foliots appear to have been a very numerous and widespread family, so that we find mention of the names of one or more of its members in almost every ancient roll which includes references to the counties of Oxford, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Northampton, Lincoln, York, Worcester, Hereford, and Devon. In the roll of the 'Liber Niger' of 12 Henry II., we have Robert Foliot with a barony of fifteen knights' fees, which his ancestors had held from the Conquest, in the county of Northampton; and Walter Foliot in the same list holds two knights' fees of the honor of Wallingford. Another Walter Foliot was Sheriff of Oxon and Berks in the years 1224 and 1225, and Sampson Foliot was Sheriff of those counties in the years 1258 and 1267, and was also Governor of Oxford Castle,* and one of Edward's Justiciars. In 23 and 25 Edward, Jordan Foliot was called to Parliament as a baron of the realm, and was son and heir to Henry Foliot and his wife Lecia de Muntenei, who, *temp.* Richard I., founded the monastery of Clerkenwell. An early and very famous member of the family was Gilbert Foliot,† Bishop of Hereford, and then of London, who was high in favour with Henry II., and amongst the English bishops of the time was the most remarkable for learning, eloquence, and austerities. He it was who was the chief opponent of Thomas à Becket, and was the sole dissentient to the election of Becket as archbishop. 'The King has indeed worked a miracle to-day,' exclaimed Foliot; 'he has turned a layman into an archbishop and a soldier into a saint.' Gilbert died in the year 1187, and the

---

* Dunkin's 'Oxfordshire,' vol. ii., p. 88.

† 'Dictionary of Nat. Biograph.,' Gilbert and Robert Foliot.



BRULEY.

FROM HARLEIAN MS. 4205, TEMP. HENRY VI.

following year died his kinsman Robert Foliot,* who succeeded him as Bishop of Hereford, but was a fast friend to Becket, and was more than once employed as mediator between Becket and Gilbert Foliot. Robert Foliot we have already had occasion to mention, for he was Archdeacon of Oxon between the years 1151 and 1174, and as such signed as witness to some of the early charters of the Thame Abbey register.

In the year 1225, as we learn from the list, already often quoted, of the Bishop of Lincoln's tenants, Bartholomew Foliot had a fief in Waterstoke, and we find him in a fine of 3 Henry III. (No. 35) concerning lands in that place. In the year 1235 he presents John de Hadenham to the rectory of Waterstoke; and in the year 1241 re-presents the same John, and this is the last notice that we have of him. His successor at Waterstoke, and probably his son, was Sir William Foliot, who presented to Waterstoke Church in the year 1267. And this Sir William† had a wife, Agnes, sons, John and Philip, and a daughter, Katherine. Katherine carried the manor of Waterstoke and the advowson of the church to the Bruley family by her marriage with Sir Henry Bruley. After that we find Foliots still continuing in Waterstoke and in neighbouring villages, Albury, Rolesham, Chalgrove, but we have not been able to find any authentic pedigree of the Foliots of Oxfordshire, and though the notices of the members of the family are very numerous, we have been unable to place them in order in a table of descent,‡ a task rendered almost impossible by the evident existence of branches of the same family living side by side in the same county.

So much for the maternal ancestry of Joan Bruley and the predecessors of her family in the manor of Waterstoke. The name of her family is very variously spelt in ancient rolls—Broleuey appears in the Battle Abbey Roll, Broily in Domesday Book, Osbert de Broily holding of Hugh de Beauchamp in Bedfordshire, and this probably is the oldest form, for the family came from Broily, where they held a fief near to Valognes in the Cotentin, and were neighbours of the family of Auvers. The name is also in ancient records written 'Bruilli,' 'Bruylli,' and sometimes the *r* is omitted and the name is spelt 'Bouilli.' We shall use the simplest form, Bruley.

---

* 'Dictionary of Nat. Biograph.,' Gilbert and Robert Foliot.

† De Banco Roll, 4 Edward I. (No. 15), MS. 15 and 50, dors; and De Banco Roll, 2 Edward I. (No. 7), M. 70, dors.

‡ Pedigree of Foliots, but wanting in evidences, in Nash's 'Worcestershire,' vol. ii., p. 258.

The family acquired the manor of Waterstoke in Oxfordshire by marriage from the Foliots,* and for five generations it remained with them, and then passed to the Danvers family by the marriage of Joan Bruley with John Danvers of Colthorpe. A table of descent of the family is given in the Harleian Society's vol. v., which is taken from Richard Lee's visitation of the county, made in 1574.† The coat-of-arms of the family is ermine, on a bend gules three chevronettes or. The first name in the table is that of John Bruley, no doubt the John de Bruley whom in the year 1194 we find in the Rotul. Cur. Regis (6 Richard I.), and it is no doubt the same John who appears in the Oxon Scutage Roll of the third year of King John. We find him again in the Testa de Nevil, in a record which is of about the year 1220, holding one fief and a half of the Bishop of Lincoln in Prestcote. The second name in the table is that of Richard, son of John, and of him we have record in the year 1225. It is in the Close Roll of the year, and is an order to the Bailiff of Portsmouth to allow Richard de Bruilly and Alan and Henry Sampier (de Sancto Petro), squires of Richard Marescall,‡ to cross the sea with twenty horses in a small ship of eight oars, and this notwithstanding his orders not to allow ships from his port to cross to the dominion of the King of France.

---

* Duchess of Cleveland, Battle Abbey Roll, vol. i., p. 140, and Skelton's 'Antiquities of Oxon.'

† Harleian MSS. 808 and 1412.

‡ Richard Marescall was the second son of William Marescall, the great Earl of Pembroke, with whom, till his death in the year 1219, the government of the kingdom rested during the minority of Henry III. William left five sons, all of whom in turn succeeded their father, for all died childless. William, the eldest, died in the year 1231, and was followed in the earldom by Richard, who at the time of his brother's death was in Brittany, warring against the French. Turbulent as he was powerful, he died in England, in arms against the King, in the year 1234, but not till after many feats of arms which had gained for him the title of the 'Flower of Chivalry.' And it is interesting to find that the Marescalls, or Marshalls, were neighbours in Oxfordshire of the Bruley family, for in the Queen's College Roll of the tenants in 1225 of the Bishop of Lincoln, we find Robert Marshall (Marescallus) holding in Westone (North Weston) a hide

The next name in the table of descent is that of Henry Bruley, son of John, and he is probably the individual of whom we find mention in the year 1250 (35 Henry III.) in a matter concerning land in Bucks. He is succeeded by his son, Henry, and this is the Henry who, marrying Katherine Foliot, brought Waterstoke into the family. The table tells us that the first Sir Henry had two sons, Henry and Roger, and that Henry married Katherine, daughter and heiress of William Foliot of Waterstoke, and that they had four sons—William, the eldest, John, the second, to whom his mother gave the manor of Waterstoke and the advowson of the church, and then Thomas and Henry. All this we shall find confirmed by authentic records. But we may first notice that Henry, the father, had a brother John, whom we find mentioned with him in the Patent Roll of the year 1270 (55 Henry III.), and of whom we also find mention in the De Banco Roll of 2 Edward I. (No. 7, M. 70, dors.), and who married Petronilla de Ludington.*

The first notice that we have of Sir Henry and his wife, Katherine, is in the De Banco Roll of 4 Edward I. (No. 7, membranes 50 and 15, dors.), 1275, and is the record of a suit between Agnes Foliot, late wife of William Foliot, who calls as her witnesses John and Philip Foliot, sons of William, and Henry de Bruylli (*sic*) and his wife, Katherine, regarding a house and half a virgate of land in Waterstoke, which Agnes claimed as part of her dower; and in the same roll we find Henry Bruylli in a suit against the same John and Philip, also regarding land in Waterstoke.

---

of land, the gift of St. Hugh, at an annual rent of one pound of pepper. Robert came into court and returned this land to St. Hugh's successor in the see, William de Bleis (*sic*), who conceded it to Robert for his life. Then, amongst the burgesses of Thame in the same Roll, we find the names of Robert and William Marescal.—Cf. Dugdale's 'Baronage,' vol. i., p. 599.

* 'Calend. Genealog.,' Roberts, vol. i., p. 79. Inquis. p. m. of Petronilla de Ludington.

Curious it is to reflect, when one recalls the circumstances of these long past family quarrels, handed down to us as they are in coeval records in characters strong and clear as were the heartburnings of six centuries ago, that the people themselves are clean forgotten unless as the subjects of an antiquarian tale, and that even their bones have long since mouldered into dust in Waterstoke churchyard. But the record is of use, for it serves to explain how it was that Catherine was the heir of William Bruley, who had sons John and Philip. Doubtless Katherine was a daughter by a first wife, upon whom and her children the manor and advowson had been settled, while Agnes was a second wife, and the mother of John and Philip. That Katherine had in her own right the manor and advowson we learn not only from the witness of the table of descent, but also from an Oxon fine* of 9 Edward II. (1315), in which Katherine settles them upon her second son, John, with remainder to his younger brothers, Thomas and Henry.

Now, to return to Sir Henry, husband of Katherine, we find several notices of him in records of the time;† for he appears to have been a notable man in the county, and was a member of Parliament for it in the years 1297 and 1298. The former was that famous Parliament held in London in October of 1297, when the King was abroad. The nobles came with 500 horsemen and a large body of foot, and set guards at the gates while they entered the city. They would listen to nothing, and the Parliament would grant the King no subsidy, until he gave his consent to the confirmation of the great charter and the charter of the forests. Shortly after the King made peace with France, and returned home to war against Scotland, and it was while waiting for his levies that he called a Parliament, that of 1298, at York. Shortly there followed the defeat of the Scots at Falkirk and their submission to Edward.

We learn from the second Queen's College list that in the year 1300 Henry de Bruyli held a fief in Waterstoke, and the last notice we have of him is in the year 1305.* Clearly he was dead in the year 1315, when his wife, Katherine, gave Waterstoke manor and church to her second son, John. Of William, the eldest son, we know little, excepting that his son and heir was named Henry, and that he inherited the manor of Henton, which Peter de Montfort gave to his father, Henry, in the year 1266. What other lands these Bruleys had we have been unable to ascertain.

---

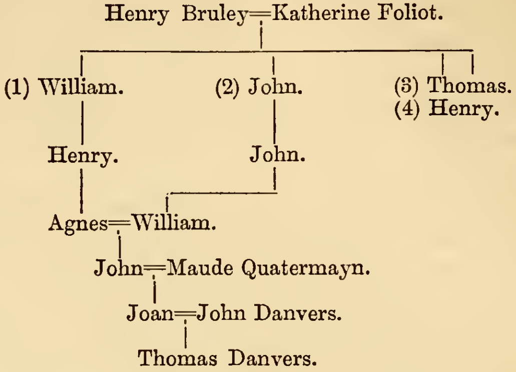
* The fine is placed amongst those of Edward II. of uncertain year, but 'nono' *can* be read, and the names of the justices are those of the 8th and 9th Edward II.

† Rotul. Hundredorum, a fief in Waterstoke; 1284 in an Oxon fine, No. 12, he and his wife buy land in Waterstoke.

And now the Harleian table of descent manifestly goes wrong, for while Sir Henry Bruyli was alive in the year 1305, and John Danvers was alive and married about the year 1398, the table places between them no less than five generations, namely, John, John, Thomas, Henry, William. We may say at once that the table has combined in a successive series two descents which ought to have been in parallel columns (see following table). Thomas and Henry ought not to have been placed in it. Rightly, the table gives William a wife named Agnes, and it was their son John who married Maude, daughter of Thomas Quatermayn. This also is rightly given in the table, as is also the marriage of their daughter, Joan, to John Danvers of Colthorp. The descent is very clearly seen in the complete table which we have of the rectors and patrons of Waterstoke, in which we find John Bruley presenting in the year 1326; then we have presentations during the minority of his son, John, who never himself presented; and then we come, in 1411, to a presentation by William Bruley; and next we find, in 1422, that John Danvers is patron *ex dono et concessione* William Bruley. And this descent is confirmed by a parallel one which we have of the descendants of William Bruley, the eldest son of Sir Henry and Katherine, and it is found in a document of about the year 1483, a deed of sale, with abstract of title, of the manor of Henton by Thomas Danvers, eldest son of John Danvers and Joan Bruley. The document is Henton (4*d*), amongst those belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford. It gives the descent as follows: Thomas Danvers, son of Joan, daughter of John, son of Agnes, daughter of Henry, son of William, son of Henry, to whom, A.D. 1266, Peter de Montfort gave the estate. We may sketch the descents in this way:

---

* Lay Subsidy Roll of 34 Edward I., $\frac{161}{10}$, in Waterstoke.



This table shows us why it was that Agnes is included in the descent of the manor of Henton, and it also explains a noticeable provision which we find in an Oxon fine, No. 16 of 3 Richard II. (1379). In the fine William Bruley and his wife, Agnes, convey the manor of Waterstoke to Robert de Waldegrave to hold in trust for them, to pass first to their children; but should they have none, the manor was to go to any children whom Agnes might subsequently have, and should she die without children, then to the right heirs of William. Thus provision is made for the heirs of Agnes by a second husband, and this because she was herself a Bruley and heir to the manor of Waterstoke, should her husband leave no children. She was, moreover, in her own right heir to the manor of Henton. Thus Joan Bruley became heir to both branches of the Bruley family, and handed on the descents to her children by John Danvers.

And now to return to John Bruley, second son of Henry and Katherine, to whom, as we have seen, his mother gave the manor of Waterstoke in the year 1315. In the year 1316 we find him mentioned as lord of Waterstoke in the 'Nomina Villarum,' and in the year 1326 he presents Thomas Bruley, no doubt his brother, to the rectory. In the year 1360 we have Thomas de Atte Fort Heye presented, on the death of Thomas de Bruley, by Thomas de Bruley; but we strongly suspect that, owing to the mistake of a copyist, Thomas instead of John is made the patron of the living. The next presentation is by Robert Wouberne, who was in custody of John, a minor, son and heir of John Bruley. In the year 1380 a John Salweyn presents, but his position is not explained, and we know from the Oxon fine of the previous year, already mentioned, that William Bruley then possessed the manor and advowson, and that his wife's name was Agnes.

In the year 1394 William Bruley was member for the county in the Parliament which assembled at Westminster on January 27, 1394-95. William lived to a great age, for we find him mentioned in an Oxon fine of the year 1436. And he outlived his son, John, for it was by his gift and concession that John Danvers, who married his granddaughter, Joan, received the manor and advowson of Waterstoke.* The inquisitors, March 16, 1422-23, say that John Danvers has on this occasion the presentation to the rectory of Waterstoke by reason of his enfeoffment of the manor and advowson by the gift and concession of William Bruley, who last presented.

In the year 1417 William Bruley released to Robert James of Borstall his rights in the manor of Oakle, called Fitz-Elys Manor (Kennett).† Besides his son John, William had two daughters, of whom one, Amicia, was married to Sir John Cotesmore, of Hasely and Baldwin Brightwell,‡ an eminent judge of the period, and Chief Justice in the year 1439, who had by her a family of five sons and thirteen daughters. Another daughter of William Bruley's, Isabel, married Sir John Arder, so the Visitation calls him; but it is probable he was the Sir John Arden, or Ardern, who in the year 1444 was created a Baron of the Exchequer.

Thus we have brought down the history of the Bruley family to the time of the marriage of Joan Bruley, about the year 1420, with John Danvers. They had a large family, of whom the eldest, Thomas, inherited Waterstoke.

---

* See original in institutions of Bishop of Lincoln, and copy in Bishop Kennett's 'Parochial Antiquities,' vol ii., p. 438.

† January 5, 20 Henry IV., William Bruley and Joan Att-Hyde granted to William Lisle the manor of Waterperry.—Additional Charter 6011.

‡ Harleian Society's vol. v., p. 195.

RECTORS OF WATERSTOKE AND PATRONS OF THE LIVING, FROM THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE BISHOPS OF LINCOLN AND OXFORD.

Date.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
1235	John de Hadenham (sub-deacon)	Bart. Foliot.
1241	,, ,, ,,	,, ,,
1267	Alexander de Waterstoke	Sir William Foliot.
1326 (3?)	Thomas Bruley	John Bruley.
1360	Thomas Atte Fort Heye, on death of Thomas Bruley	Thomas Bruley (probably for John Bruley, a minor).
1371	Ralph Mayer (or Mager), on death of the above	Robert Wouberne, for John, son of John Bruley, a minor.
1380	John Houmfray, on death of above	John Salweyn.
1411	Thomas Taylor, on death of above	William Bruley.
1411	Thomas Derecors, on resignation of above	,, ,,
1422	John Kent, on death of above	John Danvers.
1467	John Parye (or Pavys), on death of above	Sir Walter Mauntell, and Joan, his wife.
1469	John Browne, on resignation of above	Sir Walter Mauntell, and Joan, his wife.
1498-9	John Chapman, on death of above	Thomas Danvers.
1501	Robert Wright, on death of above	,, ,,
1516	Ralph Byet	William Boughton, for John, son of John Danvers, a minor.
1528	William Wylnoll	Reginald Digby, Thomas Cave, Nicholas Hubbard, and their wives.
1544	Eustace Grene	Thomas Cave.
1551	Richard Brewarn	Kenelm Digby, Francis Farnham, Walter Wright, Archdeacon of Oxford, John Smyth.
1557	Thom. Brewerne	Sir Thomas Cave and his wife Elizabeth.
1561	Lewis Evans	Lady Elizabeth Cave (widow).
1576	John Tatam	
1577	Andrew Pagenton	
1577-8	Robert Hogthrop	Edward Cave.
1581	William Staminough	
1616	Charles Croke, M.A.	George Croke, Esq.
1616	Moses Bodel.	
1618	Henry Croke, M.A.	
1642	William Harris	Sir George Croke.
1658	Robert Turner.	
1663	John Cave.	
1671	John Quarme.	
1677	Charles Hinde, M.A.	Sir George Croke.
1726	Edward Lewis, B.A.	Sir Henry Ashhurst.
1785	John Gulch, M.A.	Diana Ashhurst (widow).
1790	Robert Bertie Broughton Robinson, M.A.	Sir W. H. Ashhurst, M.P.
1827	Gibbes Walker Jordan, B.A.	,, ,, ,,
1856	James Henry Ashhurst, M.A.	John Henry Ashhurst, Esq.

CHAPTER VIII.

A.D. 1490—1721.

Hitherto the Danvers family have been found seated in Oxfordshire and the adjacent counties, but towards the end of the fifteenth century John,* second son of Richard Danvers, of Prestcote, married a great heiress, Ann Stradling, the lady of Dauntsey, and the family thus became 'Danvers of Dauntsey.' Ann represented the elder branch of the Dauntseys, and a younger branch of the Stradlings, of St. Donat's.

The village of Dauntsey is situated some three or four miles south of Malmesbury, and was at a very early period the home of a family who took their name therefrom, holding the manor of the Abbey of Malmesbury. In the years 1162 and 1166, as we learn from the Pipe Rolls,† Milo de Danteseia was Sheriff of Wilts, and the 'Liber Niger' tells us that in the year 1165 the same Milo held a fief of Earl Patrick in the county, and we have many other notices in ancient records of the presence of members of the family in Wiltshire. Moreover, the early genealogy of the family is set forth in the venerable chartulary of Malmesbury Abbey,‡ a manuscript of the thirteenth century, which is preserved in the British Museum.

It is curious to read a genealogy which ends with a member of the family who, in the tenth year of Edward I., is 'still living,' but the story begins with one 'Milo Vetus Ceppus,' lord of Daunteseye. The ancient name, therefore, of the family, before they took that of Dauntsey, was in its Latinized form 'Vetus Ceppus.' But what was the English name which the monks of Malmesbury thus translated? Now, the good monks were fond of a play upon words, and one may imagine the brother who was engaged upon the chartulary exclaiming, 'But tell me, Brother So-and-so, here is our friend Oldstock, to whom the Abbot has given the manor of Daunteseye, how shall I render his name?' 'Oh,' rejoins the other, 'we know well how to name the stocks—"Ceppus"—call him "Vetus Ceppus";' and thus Milo Oldstock, of Dauntsey, became in the chartulary Milo* Vetus Ceppus. However, Milo Vetus Ceppus acquired the lordship of Dauntesey, and thenceforwards his descendants were known by the name of their patrimony. The first Milo had a son, who was his heir, and he had also a daughter, or perhaps two; on this point the chartulary is not quite clear—either Milo had two daughters, one of whom married Thomas and the other Hugo Golafre, or his one daughter, Sybill, married one of the two, Hugo or Thomas. Hugo Golafre had a son, Roger, who had a son also Roger, who had a son John Golafre, who, says the chartulary, is now living. To return to Milo de Daunteseye, son of Milo Vetus Ceppus, he had two sons, Milo, his heir, and Richard. This third Milo had four sons, Roger,† Gilbert, Richard, and Egeliman. Richard had a son, Richard,‡ who was living, 10 Edward I., when the manuscript was written, and is probably the Richard who was born in the year 1230. Richard, son of the second Milo, received from his father the manor of Bremelham; he had a son, Matthew, and two

---

* Table of descent of Danvers of Dauntsey in Chapter V.

† Pipe Roll of Wilts, 9 and 13 Henry II.

‡ Additional MSS., No. 15667, fol. 38.

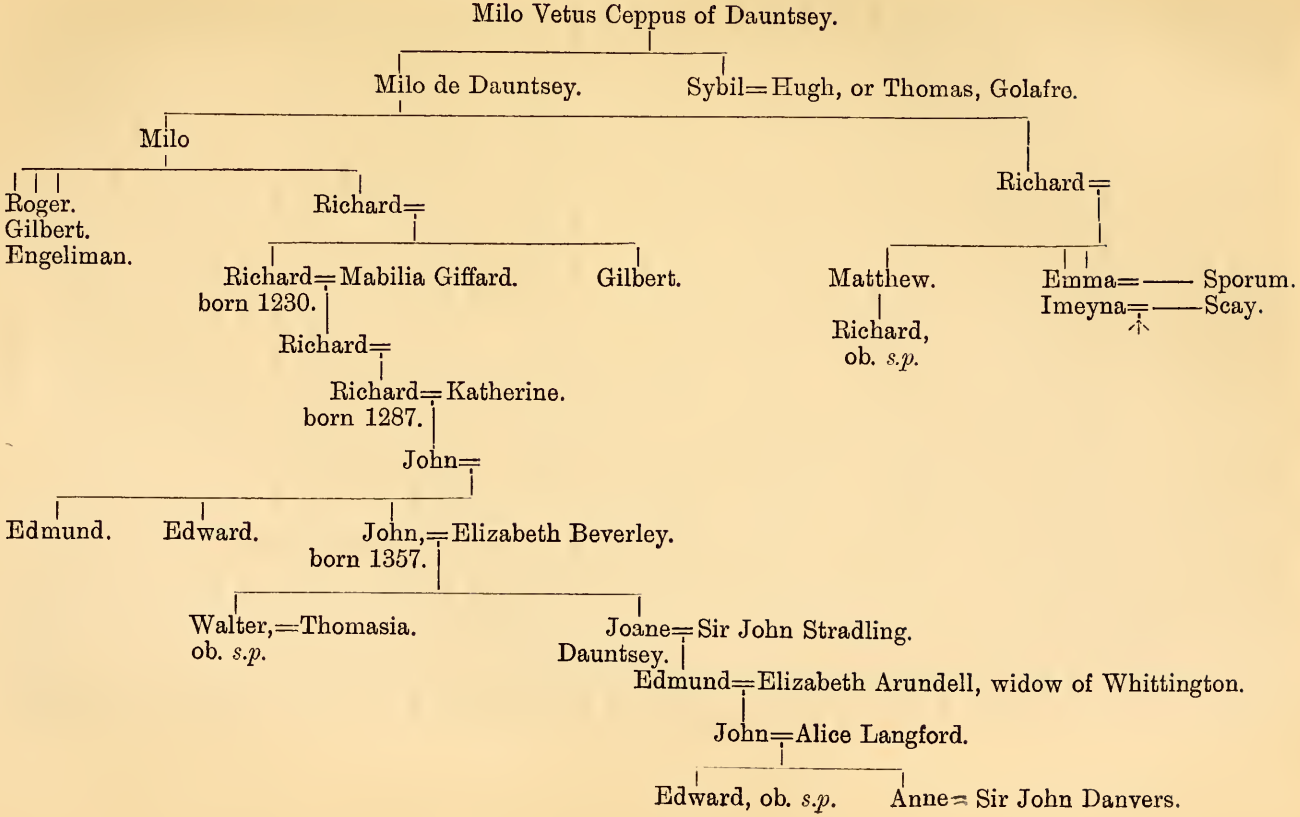
---

* 'Odestochte' appears in Wilts in the Domesday Record. 'Odestok' in the Roll of the Hundreds. We have referred 'Vetus Ceppus' to half a dozen antiquaries and Latinists, and they agree in thinking that the name is best translated 'Oldstock.'

† Roger de Danteseia, a Justice in Wilts, Rot. Lit. Claus., 10 Henry III., and in the Testa de Nevill holds a fief in Smethcote, Wilts. London Fine 95 of 16 Henry III., Roger de Dantesye and Matilda his wife. Gilbert de Danteseia, Chancellor of Beverley *circa* 1220, 'Calendar of Ancient Deeds,' vol. i., p. 54.

‡ Richard had a brother Gilbert, as we learn from the 'Abbrevat. Placitorum,' 20 Edward I., Pasch.; Gilbert de Dauntesey had a brother Richard, whose son and heir is also named Richard, 'Calend. Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 55. 38 Henry III. Inquis. P.M. of Ric. Danesy, Richard, his son and heir, is 23 years of age. Refer also to many references to members of the family in the extracts from ancient deeds appended in Hoare's 'Wilts' to the history of each hundred.

DAUNTSEY OF DAUNTSEY, WILTS.


Milo Vetus Ceppus of Dauntsey.
Milo de Dauntsey.
Sybil=Hugh, or Thomas, Golafre.
Milo
Richard=
Roger.
Gilbert.
Engeliman.
Richard=
Richard=Mabilia Giffard.
born 1230.
Gilbert.
Matthew.
Richard,
ob. s.p.
Emma=—— Sporum.
Imeyna=——Scay.
Richard=
Richard=Katherine.
born 1287.
John=
Edmund.
Edward.
John,=Elizabeth Beverley.
born 1357.
Walter,=Thomasia.
ob. s.p.
Joane=Sir John Stradling.
Dauntsey.
Edmund=Elizabeth Arundell, widow of Whittington.
John=Alice Langford.
Edward, ob. s.p.
Anne=Sir John Danvers.

daughters, Emma and Imeyna. Matthew had a son, Richard, who died leaving no children. Emma had a daughter, Milisant, mother of Clement and of Jordan Sporum (*sic*). Imeyna was the mother of Matthew Scay, and thus this genealogy ends in 10 Edward I.

It may, however, be supplemented by means of an authentic piece of genealogy, which is found in the Coram Rege Roll of the year 1484 (Hilary, 2 Richard III., No. 7, m. 66), when there was a question in dispute between Henry Danvers and Richard Pole regarding the guardianship of Edward Stradling —a dispute to which reference will again be made. The pedigree of the Dauntsey family was produced (see Appendix to Chapter) as part of the case, and was not disputed. It may be summarized as follows. Richard Dauntsey* had a son, Richard, whose wife's name was Katherine. Richard and Katherine had a son, John, who had a son, John, which latter John had a son, Walter, and a daughter, Joan. Walter died leaving no children, and his sister, Joan, married to Sir John Stradling, was his heir. Joan and John had a son, Edmund Stradling, and Edmund had a son, John, who married Alice Langford, and was the father of the Edward Stradling, regarding whom the dispute arose between Henry Danvers and Richard Pole. Another bit of the pedigree of the Dauntsey family is preserved in the Plea Rolls† (Mich., anno primo Edward III.) and in Dugdale's 'Baronage' (vol. i., p. 499). Elias, son of Elias Giffard, of Brimsfield, was twice married, first to Isabel Musard, by whom he had three daughters, Isabel, Matilda, Mabilla; by his second wife, Alice Maltravers, he had a son, John, who became his heir. Mabilla, daughter of Elias, married Richard Dauntsey, father of Richard, father of a Richard Dauntsey who was at the time, 1 Edward III. (1327), aged 40, and who was, therefore, born in the year 1287. This Richard, looking to the dates, must have been the grandson of the second Richard, of the Malmesbury pedigree, who was alive in the year 1282, and was born in the year 1230.

---

* *Circa* 1230. Testa de Nevill, Rich. de Dauntesey a fief in Wilts. Rot. Hundred., 1278, heirs of Rich. de Dantesey in Winterbourne Dauntesey. 'Calend. Genealog.,' Rich. de Dauntesey in Wilts 1288. Nomina Villarum, 1316, Rich. de Dauntesey in Winterbourne Dauntesey. Lay Subsidy Rolls, Wilts, 1327 and 1333, Rich. de Dauntesey in Dauntesey and Smethcote.

† 'Collect. Genealog. et Topograph.,' vol. i., p. 129.

Of the matches of the Dauntsey family, prior to that of John and Elizabeth Beverley, we know but two. Of these the first was that of Richard Dauntsey with Mabilla, daughter of Elias Giffard and Isabel Musard. The Giffards were a famous family in the early days of English history, men of renown, warriors, and statesmen. Their ancestor, Osbert Giffard, had in the time of the Conqueror lordships in many counties, including Gloucester and Wilts; and one branch of the family, that to which Elias belonged, was seated, first at Brimsfield, but later on made Winterbourne, in Wiltshire, the head of their barony (Dugdale's 'Baronage,' vol. i., p. 499; and Banks' 'Dormant Baronage,' vol. i., p. 323). Mabilla Giffard had a sister, Matilda, whose grandson was Roger de Bavent, of the family of the next Dauntsey match regarding which we have evidence. We learn from the Dauntsey shield that an early member of the family married a de Bavent heiress, whose arms their descendants quartered from an early period. The de Bavents came from Bavent, near Caen, and settled in Sussex. One of them, Adam de Bavent, married Alice, daughter and heiress of Peter Scudamore, lord of Norton and Fifhide, Wilts, which manors she carried to her husband. Their grandson, Roger de Bavent (died 1373), conveyed Norton and Fifehide to the King, who conceded them to the convent of Dartford, Kent (Hoare's 'Wilts,' Hundred of Chalk, Fifhide, p. 115). And, writes Sir Richard Hoare, 'in some way or other it would seem the family of Dauntesey had an interest in the manors of Fifhide and Norton,' for the King (46 Edward III.) in 1372 granted to Sir John Dauntesey and his wife, Joan, the manor of Merdon (Marden) for one red rose, on condition that they observed the arrangements regarding the manors of Norton and Fifhide, which the Prior of Dartford held as the gift of the King. Not improbably Joan, the wife of the John Dauntesey to whom the King made the above-mentioned grant, was heiress of a younger branch of the de Bavent family.

This John Dauntesey died in the year 1391, and, as we learn from his will (Hoare's 'Wilts,' vol. v., p. 87), from his post-mortem inquisition (19 of 15 Richard II.), and from the Book of Aids (20 Edward III.), held the manor of Dauntesey of the Abbey of Malmsbury, that of Winterbourne Dauntesey of the honor of Gloucester, and that of Marden of the King. His wife's name was Joan ; his son and heir was John, aged 34 years at the time of his father's death ; he left two other sons, Edmund and Edward. John, the younger, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Beverley,* of London, of Penkridge, Stafford, and of Mendesdene, Herts. Elizabeth, by way of dowry, carried to her husband the manor† of Mendesdene, and houses in the parish of St. Nicholas ad bladum, in London, in Paternoster Row, and in Wood Street, parish of St. Albans, London. Elizabeth predeceased her husband, and her property (Inquis. 24, 13 Henry IV.) devolved first to him, and on his death to their son, Walter. John Dauntsey, husband of Elizabeth, died in February, 6 Henry IV. (Inquis. P. M., No. 19 of 6 Henry IV.). His inquisition shows that he held property in London as above, also a third part of the manor of Mendesdene in Herts, and the manors of Marden, Smythcote, Dauntesey, Winterbourne Dauntesey, Bremelham, and Willesford, in Wilts. John of Dauntesey was followed by his son, Walter, who was 14 years old at the time of his father's death. Walter married early, but all we know of his wife is that her Christian name was Thomasia, and that she and her husband had no children. He died in the year 1420, at the age of 22, and was buried before St. Mary's altar in Dauntsey Church. In his will (Hoare's 'Wilts,' Frustfield, p. 83) he mentions his wife, Thomasia, and his uncle, Edmund Dauntsey, who was at the time alive. He directs that an almshouse be established in Dauntsey, wherein five poor men and women are to be maintained for ever to pray for his soul. To Dauntsey Church he left a missal, a gradual, a chalice, and some vestments. From Walter's post-mortem inquisition (No. 37 of 8 Henry V.) we learn that his heiress was his sister, Joan, who at the time of her brother's death was aged 26 years and more. Joan was then the wife of Sir John Stradling, whom she married after the death of her first husband, Sir Maurice Russell,* of Kingston Russell, Dorset. Joan Dauntsey was the last of the Dauntseys who owned the manor; but a younger branch of the family continued the name in the county, and from them descended the Dauntseys of West Lavington, one of whom, Elizabeth Dauntsey, was second wife of Sir John Danvers, the regicide.

---

* Four or five wills of the Beverley family will be found in 'Calendar of Wills of Court of Hustings,' London, 1889.

† In the reign of Richard II. the manor of Mendesdene was in possession of John de Beverle, who died seised thereof 4 Richard II. He had two daughters—Elizabeth, who married John Dauntesey, and Anne who married William Langford, Sheriff of Berks and Oxon 6 Henry IV. The daughters shared their father's property with his second wife, Amicia, who subsequently married Robert Bardolf. William and Anne Langford had a son, Robert, who succeeded them, and was followed by his son Edward. Edward was followed on his death, about 1474, by his son Thomas, to whom we shall have to recur. Cf. Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' vol. iii., p. 33, and Inquis. P.M. of Edward Langford, No. 38, 14 Edward IV.

On the death of Sir John Stradling, Joan Dauntsey took a third husband (*circa* 1438), John Dewale, whom she survived, and on his death resumed the name of Stradling. Her inquisitions (Nos. 1 and 6 of 35 Henry VI.), state that her heir is her son, Edmund Stradling, aged at the time of her death 28 years and more. Her eldest son, Richard Stradling, died childless before his mother. Sir John Stradling's inquisition is No. 16 of 13 Henry VI. In right of his wife he held the above-mentioned Wiltshire manors. His heir is his son Richard, aged 12 years and more. Joan and her third husband, John Dewale, are buried under an alabaster slab before the altar of Dauntsey Church. On it they are represented at full length, he in armour. Round the margin of the slab runs a now almost obliterated inscription:

> 'Hic jacet Johannes Dewale armiger et Dña Johanna uxor ejus quondam uxor Dñi Mauricii Russel militis, qui quondam Johannes Dewale obiit mense . . . die ultimo MCCCC . . . III. Et prefata Johanna obiit in primo die año Dñi . . . Quorum aīabus p'pcietur Deus. Amen.'

Above her head are the arms of Dauntesy, above his head are those of Russell, but the Russell chevron only can be now distinguished; the cross crosslets are worn away. It is remarkable that the arms of the first husband should be introduced, and that the inscription makes no mention of the second husband, Sir John Stradling.

---

* Sir Maurice's first wife was Isabel, daughter of Sir T. Chelrey, by whom he had a son and two daughters. (Wiffen's 'Memoirs of Russells,' vol. i., p. 149.) Sir Maurice was buried in the tomb of his first wife, at Derham, Gloucester.

Sir John, Joan's second husband, was second son of Sir William Stradling, of St. Donat's, by Isabel, daughter and heir of Sir John St. Barbe, of Somersetshire. He died about the year 1434, leaving a son, Edmund Stradling, aged 28 and more at the time of his mother's death. Sheriff of Wilts in 1452-53. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Renfrew Arundel, of Lanherne, by Joane, daughter of Sir John Coleshill, whose arms, with those of Arundell, are quartered on the Danvers shield, and side by side with them is placed the shield of Carminowe, from a daughter of which ancient house, Danvers, Arundell, and Coleshill have a common descent.

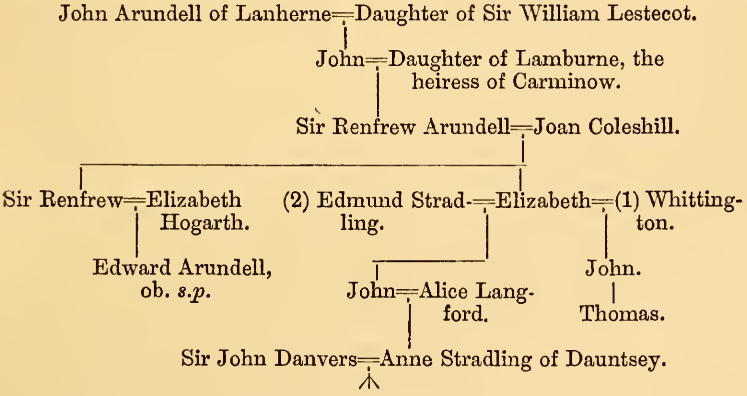
Leland, in his account of his journey, in 1540-42, through Wiltshire to Devon and Cornwall, writes: 'One Davers, a gentleman of Wiltshire, whose chief house is at Dauntsey, and Whittington, a gentleman, of Gloucester, be owners of Scylly, but they have scant 40 markes a yere of rentes and commodities of it.' Canon Jackson* notes on this: 'In the fifteenth century the Scilly Isles were held under the crown by the family of Coleshill, of Dulo, Cornwall, at the rent of fifty puffins, or 6s. 8d. per annum. The heiress of the Coleshills married Sir Renfrew Arundell, of Lamburn, knight. The heiress of the Arundells married, first, Whittington, and secondly, Sir Edmund Stradling, then owner of Dauntsey. Their granddaughter, Anne, brought the Dauntsey estate, with Scilly and the puffins, to Sir John Danvers by marriage, and their grandson, Silvester Danvers, who died in 1532, was probably the Davers alluded to by Leland.'

In the works to which references are subjoined,† the line of descent of Danvers from Arundell is not uniformly given, but no account of the descent can be correct which does not recognise the common descent of Danvers and Whittington from Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Renfrew Arundell and Joane, daughter of Sir John Coleshill, for it is matter of history* that Danvers and Whittington were joint heirs of the Scilly Isles, and that they derived their inheritance from the Coleshills, the ancient possessors of the isles. The descent, as given by Canon Jackson, is confirmed by a case which came before the courts in the reign of Henry VIII.† The case was between William Courtenay, esquire, Ann Danvers, widow, and Thomas Whittington, esquire, at the suit of Robert and Richard Bray, regarding the right of presentation to Lanyvett Church. Anne is called daughter of John, son of Elizabeth, daughter of Renfrew Arundell, and sister to Renfrew, father of Edward Arundell. Thomas Whittington is son of John (Whittington), son of the said Elizabeth. Elizabeth married first Whittington, by whom she had a son, John Whittington, and secondly Edmund Stradling, by whom she had a son,‡ John Stradling. The pedigree may be summarized as follows :

---

* 'Wilts Archæolog. Society's Journal,' vol. i., p. 156.

† Harleian Society's Publications, vols. ix. and xiv.; Colonel J. H. Vivian's 'Visitations of Cornwall'; Edmondson's 'Baronagium Genealogicum,' vol. iv., pp. 376, 398; Brydge's 'Collin's Peerage,' vol. vii., p. 40; Harleian MS. 1041, fol. 71; Aske in 'Collect. Topograph. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 307.


John Arundell of Lanherne=Daughter of Sir William Lestecot.
John=Daughter of Lamburne, the heiress of Carminow.
Sir Renfrew Arundell=Joan Coleshill.
Sir Renfrew=Elizabeth Hogarth.
(2) Edmund Stradling.=Elizabeth=(1) Whittington.
Edward Arundell, ob. s.p.
John=Alice Langford.
John.
Thomas.
Sir John Danvers=Anne Stradling of Dauntsey.

But before continuing the history of the Stradling family, it may be interesting to notice briefly the descent of the Coleshills,§

---

* On a shield on Anne Danvers' tomb Dauntsey impales quarterly Arundell 1 and 4, 2 Carminow, 3 Coleshill. See also Leland as quoted above; also Domestic State Papers, vol. of 1566-1579, p. 559; also Dr. Borlase's 'Account of the Scilly Isles,' and Lysons' 'Cornwall,' p. 79.

† De Banco Roll, Mich. 21 Henry VIII., M. 548-608.

‡ Edmund Stradling and Elizabeth Arundell had other children—Edmund, married Joane Trenouth, Renfrew, and Margaret who married —— Hethe (Canon Jackson's MSS.).

§ Cf. Lysons' 'History of Cornwall' and Borlase's 'Account of the Scilly Isles,' Oxford, 1756; also Harleian MS. 1041, p. 71, Visitation of Gloucester.

whom the Stradlings represented. During, or before, the reign of Henry II., a family named Blanchminster (de Albo Monasterio) were settled at Bevamy and Stratton in Cornwall. The Blanchminsters largely increased their patrimony by marriage with the heiress of another ancient Cornish family, that of Bauceyn. In the time of Edward I., Ranulph de Blanchminster held the castle of Ennor by the service of finding twelve armed men to keep the peace in the isles of Scilly. He paid yearly to the crown 300 puffins, or 6s. 8d. Sir Ranulph lived at Bynaway in the parish of Stratton, and lies buried in Stratton Church, where his effigy is still to be seen laid along in one of the windows of the north aisle, habited like a Knight Templar, his legs across. Another Ranulph was member for Cornwall in the eighth year of Edward II., and his descendant John was member in the forty-seventh year of Edward III. Sir John de Blanchminster, dying towards the end of the fourteenth century without issue, his estates passed to Emmeline, only daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Hiwis (Hwyshe), who had married Alice, daughter of Sir Ralph Blanchminster, and aunt to Sir John. Emmeline married first Sir Robert Tresilian, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and, secondly, Sir John Coleshill, to whom in the year 1393 Guy de Blanchminster, Rector of Lanfallos, released all rights in the manors of Stratton and Binamy. Sir John Coleshill, son of the above, was killed at the battle of Agincourt in the year 1415, leaving by his wife, daughter of Courtney, a son, on whose death without issue the estates passed to his sister Johanna, who was married, first, to Sir Renfrew Arundell, a younger son of the Lanherne family, secondly, to Sir John Nanfant, and, thirdly, to Sir William Houghton. Sir Renfrew (or Remfry) had two sons, Sir Renfrew, who succeeded him, and John, Bishop of Lichfield and then of Exeter. Sir Renfrew had a son, Edmund, who died without issue, and was succeeded in the estates by the two sisters of his father, one of whom, Elizabeth, married, first, Thomas Whittington, and then Edmund Stradling.

Edmund Stradling died in the year 1460; his post-mortem inquisition (No. 12 of 1 Edward IV.) shows that he held the same manors as his father, Sir John, and, in addition, those of Castlecombe, Pertenall, and Trowe. His heir is his son John, aged 11 years and more.

John Stradling, son of Edmund, died ten or eleven years after his father, whose manors he retained. John's inquisition is No. 21 of 11 Edward IV. His heir is his daughter Anne, the future 'lady of Dauntesey,' aged 2 years. She, however, was deprived for a time of the heirship to the estates by the birth, after her father's death, of a brother, who was named Edward. Alice Langford, the mother of Anne and Edward, belonged to the family of Langford of Berks, with whom, as we have seen (note on p. 232), the Dauntsey family were closely connected by marriage. She was probably the sister of the Thomas Langford who, as we learn from the post-mortem inquisition of his father Edward (No. 38, 14 Edward IV.), was 34 years of age in the year 1474, and who, as we learn from the Coram Rege Roll of 2 Richard III., was holding the manor of Merden, Wilts, in trust for Edward Stradling during his minority.

After her first husband's death, Alice Stradling married Richard Pole of Isleworth, and till the time of her second marriage had perforce acquiesced in the guardianship of her son Edward by Henry Danvers, the nominee of the trustees whom Richard Fowler by his will appointed (see p. 171). Richard Fowler had somehow, probably by purchase, obtained the wardship and marriage of the young Edward Stradling from the Abbey of Malmesbury, from which the Stradlings held the manor of Dauntsey, and in his will Fowler directed that Edward Stradling should be married to his daughter Joan Fowler when she became 15 years of age.

But Richard Fowler had forgotten, or perhaps he did not know, that the young Edward had another suzerain, the King, from whom he held, in virtue of a gift of Edward III. to his ancestor John Dauntsey, the manor of Merden.* Richard Fowler's trustees or executors took possession of Edward Stradling and handed him over to the guardianship of Henry Danvers, whose house was in the parish of St. Vedast in Faringdon Ward, doubtless with the intention that when

---

* Abbrev. Patent, Origin, 46 of Edward III., and Book of Aids of Edward III.

Edward came of age he should be married to Joan Fowler. But in the meantime his mother, Alice Stradling, became the wife of Richard Pole, and on June 27, 1483, Richard Pole, in all likelihood incited thereto by his wife, seized and carried off young Edward from his guardian's house in Faringdon Ward. On this happening, Henry Danvers brought an action against Richard Pole, alleging that by the abduction of his ward he had suffered a loss of at least £1,000. The case came into Court. 'Richard Pole, late of Islylworth, in Co. Midd, Esq^{re}., was attached to answer to Henry Danvers of plea why with force and arms he took away Edward Stradling, kinsman and heir of Edmund Stradling, being under age, whose custody and marriage belong to the said Henry.'*

On the side of Henry Danvers the descent of the young Edward is shown, and that he held his manor of the Abbot of Malmesbury, that Richard Fowler had become duly possessed of the wardship which he by his will had made over to Henry Danvers. Richard Pole, in reply, shows that, in virtue of the minor's possession of the manor of Merden, which Edward held by the yearly rent of a rose of Thomas Langford, Alice, the boy's mother, had him in custody until Henry Danvers took him away. Clearly an arrangement had been made in the lifetime of John Stradling under which Thomas Langford had been enfeoffed of the manor of Merden in order that he might, with Alice his sister, have custody of the boy during his minority. The hearing of the case was postponed, and we have not been able to discover in what way it ended. The village tradition is that the boy was not long after living with his mother at Dauntsey, and that they were murdered in the manor house. As we shall find, the probable date of his death was in the first half of the year 1488, when he would be about 16 years of age.

The tradition in question is related by Aubrey in his 'History of Wiltshire,' but his able editor, Canon Jackson, was not able to meet with any other written account of the murder, nor was he ever able to find elsewhere the most remote allusion to it. However, writes Canon Jackson, the 'tradition still lives in the parish of Dauntsey, not only vivens, but vivax: though probably now as unlike the original truth as any tale could well be that has been flitting from village mouth to mouth for nearly 400 years. The popular version appears to be that the father had gone to Parliament and had left his wife and son under the parson's charge; that he and the parish clerk committed the murder as they thought undetected, but the ploughboy, hidden in the oven, saw and told; that the parson's name was Cuthbert; and that he was starved to death in a cage on a gibbet in a field close by the Parsonage. All this, however, presents nothing in aid of Aubrey's story. No such name as Cuthbert appears either in the lists of incumbents of Dauntesey or in the register of the clergy of Wilts about the period. The person who seems to have been Rector of Dauntesey when the crime was committed was John Jones, rector from 1465 to 1503.'

---

* Coram Rege Roll, Hilary, 2 Richard III., No. 7, M. 66.

Is it not probable that the story of the murder had its rise in the quarrel regarding the guardianship, and possibly in some attempt made at Dauntsey to recapture the boy from his mother?* But in reference to this matter an interesting question arises, and it is this—Who was Richard Pole, the second husband of Alice Stradling? Was he the individual who subsequently married Margaret Plantagenet, Countess of Salisbury, daughter of George, Duke of Clarence?

---

* As regards the story of the murder of the Stradling family, we might let the story pass without further notice, regarding it, as does Canon Jackson, simply as the outcome of village gossip, repeated from generation to generation, and 'probably as unlike the original truth as any tale could well be.' But since Aubrey's time the story has been marvellously developed, and, as recently told in print, reflects cruelly upon an honourable and honoured family. All that Aubrey knew and said is as follows: 'Here was a robbery committed at the manor house on the family of the Stradlings; he (Sir Edward) and all his servants, except one plowboy, who had hid himself, were murthered.' How vastly different is this from the story as we have it told in Mr. Walter Chitty's 'History of the Long Family,' which was published in the year 1889. There, instead of Aubrey's simple story of robbery and murder at the Dauntsey manor house, we learn that, long before Aubrey's time, Sir John Danvers, who married Anne Stradling in the year 1487, had been openly accused of implication in the murder, and that the deed was done by his retainers or at his command. That the Long family cherishing this belief, bitter enmity grew up between them and the Danvers family, and culminated in the murder of Walter Long in the year 1594 by Henry and Charles Danvers. The story even goes so far as to hint that Anne Stradling may have known something of the deed. 'Whether,' writes Mr. Chitty, 'Anne knew anything of the matter will probably never be known, but it is probable she did not. Be this as it may, she died eventually, and also Sir John Danvers, and their secret, if they had one, died with them.' Truly one need not wonder at any develop-

Richard Pole, husband of the Countess, was the son of Sir Geoffrey Pole, descended from an ancient family, the Pooles,

---

ment of a simple story in the comparatively benighted period between Edward Stradling's death and the time when Aubrey wrote, if in these later and more enlightened days it can thus have grown and changed. One might have expected that an author, when making or repeating a charge of this kind against the Danvers family, would at least have acquainted himself with so much of the history of the family as the story told by him includes. His story is that Joan Dauntesey brought Dauntesey to Sir John Stradling; that they had a very large family, who were all murdered excepting the daughter Anne, who was staying in London, and subsequently married Sir John Danvers. Now, Anne Stradling was indeed the daughter of a John Stradling, but this John was the grandson of the Sir John who married Joan Dauntesey, and so far from Anne being one of a very large family, the only other child of the marriage was her brother Edward. Moreover, the quarrel between the Danvers and Long families occurred in the lifetime of a Sir John Danvers, who was great-grandson of Sir John Danvers and his wife, Anne Stradling. Let it, too, be noted that the story of the robbery and murder, as Aubrey relates it, knows nothing, hints nothing, of any implication of the Danvers family in the matter, and Aubrey's able editor, Canon Jackson, who thoroughly explored the local history of that part of Wiltshire, was never able to meet elsewhere with the most remote allusion to the murder. We would add, were the story in its latest development true, and in any way connected with the Long catastrophe, we should almost certainly have found an allusion to it in the notes for the defence of her son, which Lady Danvers wrote shortly after the death of Walter Long in 1594 (see p. 290). In the account of that affair which is given at length in the journal of the Wiltshire Archæological Society, vol. i., it is distinctly stated that the source of the provocation given by the Longs was unknown. Further, if at the time of Edward Stradling's death and his sister's marriage, there was any outspoken mention, or even suspicion, of the implication of Sir John Danvers in the death of his brother-in-law, is it likely that Sir John would have been made Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1494, and of Wiltshire in 1503, that he could have married his numerous children amongst the leading county families of the neighbourhood, and, finally, that he and his wife should have passed together many years of married life in that affection and happiness which is evidenced by the language of his will, and by the inscriptions upon their tombs? Reference to page 290 will show that the Danvers account of the murder of Henry Long is that the quarrel arose from the misdoings of the Long family, and owing to murders committed by their servants. See also page 264, where it appears that Anne Stradling was married before her brother's death.

of Cheshire. Sir Geoffrey's first wife was Edith, daughter of Sir Oliver St. John, of Bletsoe, and half-sister to Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of King Henry VII., to whom therefore Richard Pole was 'nye of kin.' (See Chapter VI.) Sir Geoffrey's second wife was Bona, sister to Henry Danvers the guardian of Edward Stradling. Moreover, there was this further relationship between the families—that Henry Danvers married Beatrice, daughter of Sir Ralph Verney and grand-daughter of Sir Geoffrey Pole.

Dugdale, in his 'Baronage of England,' tells us that Sir Richard was a valiant and expert commander, who greatly served the King in the war with Scotland, and being a person of great accomplishments, was made chief gentleman of the bedchamber to Prince Arthur, and a Knight of the Garter. Sir Richard married, or rather the King as a matter of policy married him to, Margaret, Countess of Salisbury and Warwick, daughter of the Duke of Clarence, and sister to Edward, Earl of Warwick. Sir Richard died in the year 1504,* leaving by his wife, the Countess Margaret, four sons and a daughter. The Countess survived her husband many years, and 'the last of the Plantagenets' was in her seventy-third year cruelly murdered by order of Henry VIII., 'to secure his crowne, and to gayne crownes into his purse.' Of her children, Henry, Lord Montacute, the eldest, was beheaded three years previously to his mother; Geoffrey and Arthur were imprisoned, while Reginald, afterwards the famous Cardinal Pole, had to flee for his life, but lived to become Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Pope's legate to England in the reign of Queen Mary.

And so we return to the question, Was the Richard Pole, who about the year 1492 married Margaret Plantagenet, the same with the Richard Pole who in the year 1483 was the husband of Alice Stradling, the man who carried off the young Edward Stradling from Henry Danvers' house? Richard Pole's age at the time of his marriage with the Countess is quite consistent with a previous marriage, for, so Sir John

---

* Exchequer Escheats, series 2, file 3: 'Richard Pole.' Taken at Wendover 20 Henry VII. Seised of the manor of Ellysborough; died 20 December, 20 (19?) Henry VII. Son and heir, Henry, is aged 12 years and more' (see also 'Journal of Sussex Archæological Society,' vol. ii., p. 76).

Oglander tells us, 'he wase very old when Henry ye VII. maryed him to ye Countis of Salisburie, she beinge a brave, spirited younge woman, hoping she should have no children by him, but having children, brought them to ye Coorte in white coates pourposely that Henry VII. might see them.'* Nor at the period in question can any mention be found of any Richard Pole, a man of position, other than Richard, son of Sir Geoffrey Pole. That Alice Stradling's second husband was a man of good station may be assumed from the fact of his marriage with her, and from his daring 'with force and arms' to carry off Edward Stradling from the house of Henry Danvers, an individual who had powerful friends. Further, it must be considered that Richard Pole, the son of Sir Geoffrey, was closely connected with the Danvers family, and was therefore quite in the circumstances which would bring about an intimacy with Alice Stradling. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it may be assumed with a considerable degree of probability that Richard Pole, the husband of Alice Stradling, was the individual who subsequently married Margaret Plantagenet. Nor can objection be made to this view on the grounds that Richard Pole was a man of position too high to marry the widow of a country squire, for as a matter of fact, though he was of kin to the King, and though by his valour and accomplishments he subsequently raised himself to a high position in the Court of Henry VII., he does not appear at the time of the suit, in the reign of Richard III., to have reached any higher position than that to which he was entitled by his birth, for in the year 1485, the first of the reign of Henry VII.,† he was simply an esquire of the body to the King on a salary of 50 marks annually, and in the following year, when he received pardon and release for all manner of offences, he is called 'Richard Pole, late of London.'‡

---

* 'Oglander Memoirs,' Long's edition. London, 1888. Pp. 99, 100.

† Materials for History of Henry VII., Rolls Series, vol. i., pp. 97 and 188.

‡ After the above had gone to press, we learned from Harleian MS. 433, p. 181, that amongst other grants of the Crown, *temp.* Richard III., is one of July 11, 1584, to Richard Pole, one of the squires of the King's body, as reward for services rendered by him, 'the wardship, custody, and marriage of Edward Stradling, son and heir of . . . Stradling squier, until he is of full age.' The circumstances of the grant confirm our view

And now to return to the Dauntsey family. At the time when Milo Vetus Ceppus, from whom the Dauntsey family sprung, was still young, a notable person in the kingdom was Robert Fitzhamon, of the blood of Rollo and the Conqueror, a great noble and warrior, but perhaps best remembered as the founder of Tewkesbury Abbey, where, in the Abbey Church, he, with many of his descendants,* lies buried. In the year 1091 Robert Fitzhamon, weary, it is said, of the court and a peaceable life, started on a fighting expedition into South Wales, and amongst the twelve knights who accompanied him was William le Esterling. This le Esterling established himself in Glamorganshire, and from him sprung the L'Esterling, or Stradling family, whose authentic history in Glamorganshire reaches back to a very early period. To this day, the castle of St. Donat, standing out boldly upon the north shore of the British Channel, attests the former greatness of the Stradling family, and it was a scion of the race, Sir John Stradling, who married Joan, the heiress of Dauntsey; and it was their great-granddaughter, Anne, who married Sir John Danvers, thus adding to his coat of arms the achievements of many an ancient race.

The old historian† of Glamorganshire relates that 'In the year of our Lord 1091, in the reign of William Rufus, one Jestyn, the son of Gurgant, being Lord of Glamorgan, Rees ap Tewdyr, prince of South Wales, made war upon him. Whereupon the said Jestyn, understanding himself unable to withstand Rees without some aid otherwise, sent one Eneon, a gentleman of his, to England to Robert Fitzhamon, a worthy man, a Knight of the Privy Chamber to the King, to retain him for his succour. The which Robert being desirous to exercise himself in feats of war, agreed soon with him thereto for a salary for the same. Whereupon Robert retained to his

---

that Richard Pole husband of Alice Stradling, and Richard Pole husband of the Countess of Salisbury, were one and the same person.

* See a very interesting article on Tewkesbury Abbey by Dean Spence in *Good Words* for January, 1892.

† Rice Merrick's 'Antiquities of Glamorganshire,' written in the year 1578, published by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., in 1825. Also Caradoc's 'History of Wales,' Dr. Powell's edition, published 1832. Caradoc was a contemporary of Geoffrey of Monmouth, and his history extended from the end of the seventh to the end of the twelfth century. Also 'The Stradling Correspondence,' edited by the Rev. J. Traherne, London, 1840.

service for the journey twelve knights, and a competent number of soldiers, and went into Wales, and, joining there with the power of the said Jestyn, fought with Rees ap Tewdyr, and killed him and one Conan his son. After which victory Robert minding to return home with his company, demanded from Jestyn payment according to the covenant. The which to perform in all points the said Jestyn denied, and thereupon they fell out, so that it came to be tried by battle. And because Eneon saw his master go from his promises, which he had concluded on his behalf, he forsook him, and took part with Robert Fitzhamon. In the conflict Jestyn was slain, whereby the said Robert won the possession of the whole lordship of Glamorgan, of the which he gave certain castles and manors in reward of service to his twelve knights.* And these knights were: William of London, Richard Greenfield, Pain Turberville, Robert S. Quintine, Richard de Syward, Gilbert de Humfreville, Roger de Berkerolles, Reginald de Sully, Peter le Soore, John le Fleming, Oliver de S. John, William le Esterling, whose ancestors came out of Danske to England with the Danes, and is now by shortness of speech called Stradling.' But the story runs, that when Fitzhamon had endowed eleven of his knights, the twelfth Sir Paine (Paganus) Turberville demanded his share, to whom Fitzhamon replied: 'Here are men and arms, go get it where you can.' So, with his men, Paine Turberville went to Coity and demanded of its lord Morgan, one of the princes of the land, that he should yield its possession. Whereupon Morgan brought out from the castle his daughter, Sara, and passing through the army, offered to Paine the castle if he would marry her, and if he would not he besought Paine to meet him in single combat, that they two might decide the question, for why should the blood of others be shed? Upon this, Paine, holding his naked sword in his left hand, gave it to Morgan, and with his right hand embraced his daughter, and so, shortly marrying, came to the lordship of Coity by true possession. And to this the ruins of his castle still witness.

But of the families of the twelve knights only that of the Stradlings had in the sixteenth century descended in the male line, and they having married with the Berkerolles and Turbervilles, carried the shields of those families upon their escutcheons, and with them that of the Justyns, who descended from Jestyn, the sonne of Gurgant, all which to this day the Danvers family have the right to bear, in virtue of the marriage of their ancestor, Sir John Danvers, with Anne of Dauntesey, the heiress of the Stradlings.

---

* Nicholas, 'County Families of Wales.'

Such in brief is the story of the winning of Glamorganshire as told by the old chroniclers, but recent writers* do not scruple to throw discredit upon many of its details. Yet Jestyn-ap-Gurgant and Rees ap Tewdyr were unquestionably amongst the princes of the land in the time of William Rufus, and were of those whom Fitzhamon dispossessed; and it is quite probable that Fitzhamon, while following up the settled policy of the English against the Welsh, may have taken advantage of a quarrel between those princes with a view to the conquest of the land. Indeed, there can be little doubt that Fitzhamon's action was altogether of set purpose, and that the King gave him the honour of Gloucester in order that he might undertake the conquest of Glamorgan. Moreover, it is quite probable that some or all of the knights whom tradition names were veritably amongst Fitzhamon's companions. This is almost certain as regards Sir Paine Turberville; and it is no mere legend that he won Coyty, and that he or his son married the heiress. So, too, Sir William and Sir Roger Berkerolles held fiefs in Gloucester or Glamorganshire of Fitzhamon;† and we find the brothers and Sir Roger's sons, William and Robert, joining in a grant to the Abbot of Glastonbury. From Fitzhamon's time, too, the Haweys, of Combe-Hawey, Somerset, held the manor of St. Donat's until the time of Edward I., when their heiress carried it to her husband, Sir Peter Stradling. Some countenance also is given to the story of the twelve knights by the fact that in the earliest list which we have (*circa* 1262) of the owners of the fiefs in Glamorganshire, seven of the number bear the names which are amongst those of Fitzhamon's companions. They are Turberville, de London, Syward, Umfraville, le Soor, de Sulye, le Fleming (Clark's 'Muniments of Glamorgan,' vol. i., p. 197). As regards the Turbervilles, it is well authenticated that Sir Paine, great-grandson of the first Sir Paine, married Maude, daughter and heiress of Morgan Gam, one of the nephews of Justyn ap Gurgant, and therefore their son, Sir Gilbert Turberville, quartered the arms of Justyn. Another Sir Paine Turberville married Wenllian, daughter of Sir Richard Talbot, and their great-grandson, Sir Richard Turberville, having no issue, entailed the lordship of Coyty to Sir Roger Berkerolles, who had married Katherine, Sir Richard's eldest sister. This Sir Roger Berkerolles was son to William Berkerolles by his wife Phelice, one of the daughters of de Vere, Earl of Oxford. Wenllian, one of the heiresses of Sir Roger Berkerolles, married Sir Edward Stradling, whose grandson, another Sir Edward, was, as we learn from the post-mortem inquisition (1411) of Sir Lawrence Berkerolles, nearest heir to Sir Lawrence, being son of William Stradling, son of Wenllian, one of the sisters of the said Sir Lawrence. Sir Edward Stradling was at the time aged 22 and more. The same inquisition also tells us that Richard Turberville died childless, and seised of Coyty and other places, and that Lawrence Berkerolle was one of his heirs, as he was son and heir of Katherine, one of Richard Turberville's sisters. Many notices of the families of Berkerolle and Turberville may be found in the indexes to Clark's 'Charters, etc., of Glamorgan.'

---

* Nicholas (Thomas), 'History of Glamorgan,' London, 1874; G. T. Clark, 'The Land of Morgan,' London, 1883; and 'Charters, etc., of Glamorgan,' 4 vols., Dowlais, 1859-91.

† See notes to P.M. Inquis. of Sir L. Berkerole in G. T. Clark's 'Charters, etc., of Glamorgan,' vol. i.

As regards the Stradling family, we have no well-authenticated information of their presence at St. Donat's till the year 1317, when we find Edward Stradling holding one fief in Sancto Donato, and at the same time William Berkerolle held the neighbouring fief of East Orchard. The Edward Stradling in question was the son of Sir Peter Stradling and his wife Julia, sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Hawey, of Compton Hawey, Dorset, Hawey, Somerset,* and St. Donat's Castle, Glamorgan (Hutchins' 'Dorset,' vol. iv., p. 167). The Haweys, so says Mr. Clark, had held St. Donat's since the time of Fitzhamon, and in all probability one of them was his companion in the winning of Glamorgan. The Sir Peter Stradling who married their heiress was, according to the chroniclers, eighth in descent from the William L'Esterling whom they, the chroniclers, reckon amongst the companions of Fitzhamon. In the year 1314 Sir Edward Stradling (Stradling correspondence) did homage to the Abbot of Sherborne for Compton Hawey. In the year 1341 Sir Edward Stradlyng, lord of St. Donat's, and his wife, Elena, made provision with William, Abbot of Neath, for an obit for their souls (Clark, vol. i.). Elena, or Eleanor, was the daughter and heiress of Gilbert Strongbow, a younger son of the Pembroke family; his mother was daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Gernon, hence the presence of the Strongbow and the Gernon coats amongst the Stradling quarterings. Both Sir Edward Stradling and his son, Sir Edward, find frequent mention in the charters and muniments of Glamorgan. The latter was sheriff of the county in the year 1367, and was member for Somersetshire in the year 1344. He it was who married Wenllian Berkerolles, of East Orchard Castle, heiress to her brother, Sir Lawrence. They had a son, Sir William Stradlyng, who married Isabel, daughter and heiress of Sir John St. Barbe and his wife, Margaret,* and had three sons —Edward, the eldest, married Joane, daughter of Henry Beaufort, afterwards Cardinal; he died about the year 1453. William, the third son, was ancestor to the Stradlings of Ruthyn. Sir John, the second son, was the Stradling who married Joan, daughter of Sir John Dauntesey, and heiress to her brother, Sir Walter. Their eldest son, Richard, was born in the year 1422, so that we may place the date of the marriage at about the year 1420. Sir John Stradling died in the year 1434, and his wife three or four years after married her third husband, John Dewale. Some of the genealogists of the

---

* For an account of St. Donat's Castle, see its history, illustrated, by G. T. Clark, Cardiff, 1871.

---

* Margaret was daughter of Sir Hugh Langland by Margaret, sister and co-heiress of Sir Simon Furneaux. Pedigree of St. Barbe in Hoare's 'Wilts,' vol. v., Frustfield, p. 10. Charter Roll of 18 Edward I., No. 75: 'The King grants market and fair to John de Strattelenges and his wife Maude at their manor of Wellesburn (Warwick).' For John de Strattelenges (Stratling, Stradling) and his wife, see Dugdale's 'Warwick,' pp. 572 and 576.

Stradling and Dauntesey families have fallen into strange errors regarding this Sir John Stradling: a favourite assertion is that after his wife's death he took holy orders, and became in 1448 Archdeacon of Llandaff, and this heedless of the facts that Sir John predeceased his wife, and died in the year 1434. It is clear, on reference to Mr. Clark's volumes of the 'Muniments of Glamorganshire,' that Sir John Stradling had a contemporary, or perhaps two contemporaries, of the same name, who outlived him, and one of whom was Sheriff of Glamorgan in the year 1451. Amongst the Glamorganshire deeds is one dated 1452 (Clark, vol. ii., p. 169), a grant of land in Coyty by Edmund Stradling; a note to the deed states that Edmund was son of Sir Edmund, of Winterbourne Dauntesey, son of Sir John Stradling and Joan Dauntesey.* The seal attached to the deed quarters 1 and 4 paly of six, a chevron (Stradling), 2 and 3, three bars undy for Dauntesey.†

To return to the village of Dauntsey, anciently Domec's Eye, an island belonging to Domec. The church, which is some little distance from the village, is situated close to, almost upon, the east bank of the Avon. On the east and south and partly on the west it is surrounded by the churchyard, but its northern face and the western face of the tower are within the private grounds of the adjacent manor house.

The church, dedicated to St. James, consists of chancel and north chapel, a nave of four bays, with north and south aisles, north and south porch, and a western embattled tower. The original church was Norman, and the north and south doorways remain 'with segmented heads and cushion capitals, with pearl ornaments' (Canon Jackson's MS. notes).‡ The present church is mainly Early English, but it has been added to and altered during the Decorated and Perpendicular periods, and the whole fabric was restored in the year 1630 by Danvers, Earl of Danby, who added a north chapel to the chancel as a burial-place for himself. 'This is a very fine church,' writes the historian Aubrey, 'and hath had better luck in the late warres than any hereabout.' The tower, or, at any rate, the upper part of it, was rebuilt by Danvers, Earl of Danby, who placed his coat-of-arms with coronet and supporters on its western face. Shields bearing coats-of-arms of the family were at the same time placed below the battlements, three on each side of the tower. Those on the southern face are, in the centre, Danvers, on either side Stradling and Nevill (Fretty on a canton, a ship). On the east, in the centre, the Danvers shield is repeated; on either side, Dauntsey, and a shield, much worn, which appears to be vairy, a chief. . . . On the north are, in the centre, Dauntsey, on either side, Brancestre, and a shield, much worn, which may be Stradling; the bend is quite distinguishable. On the west face is Dauntsey, and on one side Courtenay, and on the other Nevill (a saltire).

---

* The elder branch of the Stradlings—the Stradlings of St. Donat's—died out in the person of Sir Thomas Stradling, Bart., born in the year 1710, died, unmarried, at Montpellier, September 27, 1738.

† The Stradlings seem to have used two coats—the above, but more commonly paly of six on a bend three cinquefoils.

‡ Now in the possession of the Royal Society of Antiquaries.

The interior of the church has happily escaped modern restoration. The ancient Perpendicular chancel screen, a portion of the old panelled oak roof, the pavement (excepting that of the chancel), and, above all, the very fine oak benches, remain; and these, with the remains of the painted glass in the chancel, and the ancient tombs on either side the altar, give to the church an old-time look, very refreshing to the visitor, especially to one who has been saddened by the brand new interiors of some of the 'restored' churches of the neighbourhood. May Dauntsey Church long preserve this happy distinction!

The church contains many reminiscences of the former lords of Dauntsey, for besides their monuments, the family coats-of-arms are displayed on roof, and screen, and benches. In the north-west corner of the church are portions of the doom picture, which probably once surmounted the screen.

The oldest monument in the church is the incised alabaster slab in front of the altar, which marks the resting-place of Joan of Dauntsey and her third husband, John Dewale. The inscription is now almost illegible; so much as could be read of it in Aubrey's time has been already quoted. The figures are so worn down as to be scarcely distinguishable. Above Joan's head is the Dauntsey shield, and above her husband's is the shield of her first husband, Sir Maurice Russell.

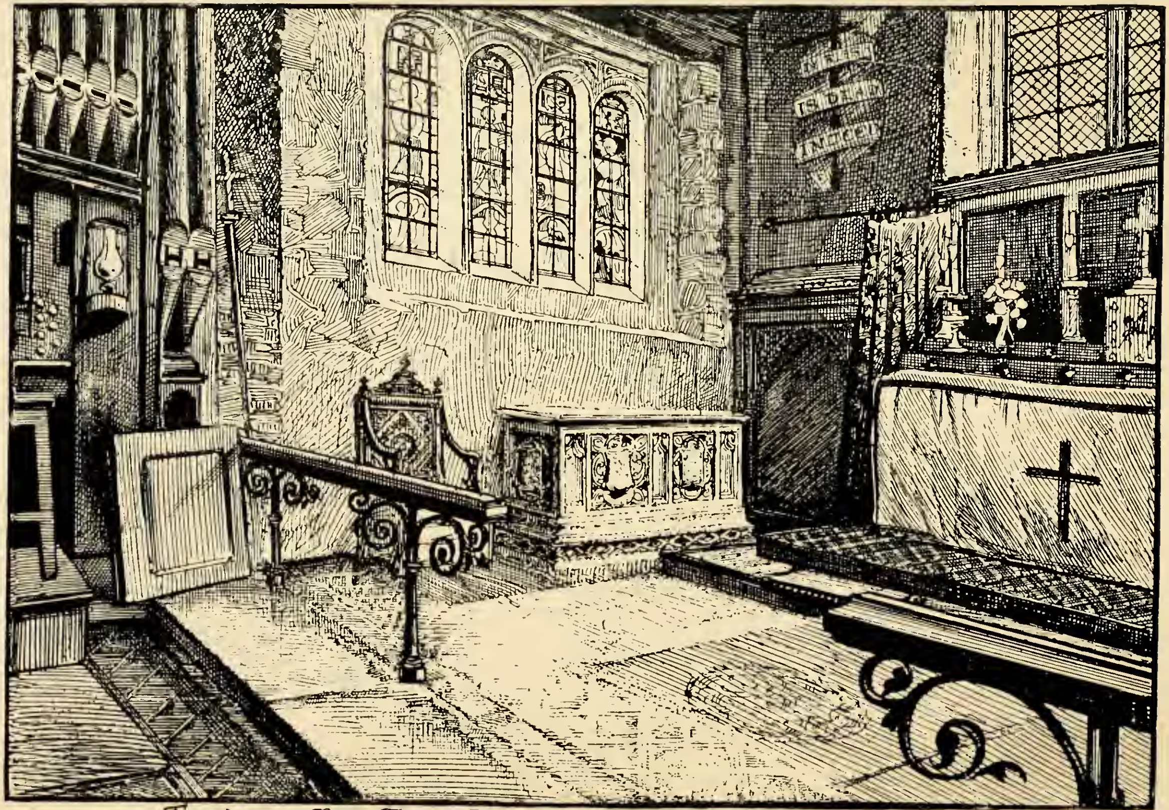
On the north side of the altar against the north wall is placed the freestone altar-tomb of Sir John Danvers and his wife Ann of Dauntsey, which forms the subject of one of our illustrations. The tomb is 5 feet 9 inches in length, by 2 feet 2 inches across; it is covered by a slab of black marble, on which, cut in brass, are the full-length effigies of Sir John and Dame Ann. Round the verge runs the inscription:

'Here lyeth buryed Syr John Danvers knyght sometyme lorde of this manor, and patron of this church in the ryght of Dame Anne his wyf, the which said Syr John the iiii. day of the monethe of January deptyed thys lyfe too transitory the yere of our Lord God MCCCCC. and XIIII.'

At the four corners of the slab are placed shields as follows: Above Sir John's head, Brancestre quartering Verney;* at his feet, the same impaling Stradling quartering Dauntsey. Above Dame Anne's head is Stradling quartering Dauntsey; at her feet, Brancestre and Verney impaling Stradling and Daunt-

---

* The arms are two bars, in chief two bucks' heads cabossed. We have already explained (Chapter VII.) that these are the arms of de Langelee, which were assumed by Verney of Byfield, whose heiress was the first wife of John Danvers, of Colthorpe. His children by both his wives continued to bear the arms of Brancestre in the place of Danvers; but while those of Alice Verney quartered her arms, the children of the second marriage, those of Joan Bruley, quartered the Bruley arms. Thus, from the record (Metcalfe's 'Book of Knights,' London, 1885) which we have of the conferring of knighthood on Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey, and his half-uncle, Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse, we learn that Sir John's arms were: Quarterly 1 and 4 argent on a bend gules three martletts or winged vert; 2 and 3 gules two bars or, in chief two bucks' heads cabossed of the second; over all a crescent for difference. Crest two hands conjoined in pile, argent. Sir William's arms were 1 and 2 as above, 2 and 3 ermine on a bend gules three chevrons or (Bruley). Aubrey, in his 'History of Wilts,' calls the Verney arms those of Barendes, or Barrandyne (Barrantyne). But the Barrantyne family never bore such arms, and Aubrey's authority was, as we learn from the MS. of his editor, Canon Jackson, some comparatively modern shields which were formerly (and possibly may be now) in the abbey church of Cirencester, and were intended to illustrate the alliances of the Danvers family. Under the one in question was written Barrandyne, but the names placed under three or four of the other shields were also wrong, and it is probable that the work was that of some ill-informed local genealogist. In Lansdowne MS. 269, the arms are given as those of Chevauchesul, but had they been such, they would have been borne by the children of both Alice Verney and Joan Bruley. It must be remembered that we have Vincent's high authority for the shield being that of Verney.



Tomb of Sir John Danvers in Dauntsey Church sey. It is noticeable that the bars upon the Dauntsey shield are nebuly, and this is also so on Dame Anne's brass; but on the shields represented in the windows, on Joan of Dauntsey's monumental slab, and elsewhere in the church, the bars are wavy. They are so also on Dame Anne's seal appended to a charter now in the possession of the British Museum (Addit., 38881).

The south and west faces of the tomb are richly panelled; the panelling of the east end of the tomb, if ever present, is now destroyed. Upon a shield carved on the west face are the Dauntsey arms. Two shields on the front of the tomb bear respectively the Brancestre arms, and Brancestre quartering Verney.

Above the tomb of Sir John Danvers and his wife is a window of four lights, once richly filled with coloured glass, of which, however, but little now remains. Each light is divided into three compartments, in the uppermost of which in the first light is Brancestre quartering Verney, and impaling Stradling quartering Dauntesey. In the middle compartment in Aubrey's time was the picture of a king holding the head of a young king in his hand; in the lower compartment were, so Aubrey states, the representations of four 'lovely' boys, 'resembling their father,'* kneeling in gowns with wide sleeves. Over their heads a scroll:

'Sancte Fredismunde ora pro nobis,'

and this scroll explains the meaning of the figure which Aubrey calls a king carrying a young king's head. The picture was no doubt intended to illustrate the legend of St. Fredismund, which will presently be noticed.

In the second light in the upper compartment is a shield, Brancestre quartering Verney. In the central compartment 'our Ladie'; on a scroll from our Lady:

'Ecce ancilla Dñi fiat michi secundum verbum tuum.'

Underneath a picture of Sir John Danvers, a handsome young gentleman kneeling in armour, over which is his coat-of-arms; on a scroll:

'Sancta Dei genitrix semper virgo Maria, ora pro nobis.'

---

* Gone, 1894.

The scroll only (1890) remains, with the shield and a part of the robes of our Lady.

In the third light, upper compartment, is a shield, Stradling quartering Dauntsey; in the central compartment, 'Angelus Annuncians,' under Dame Anne kneeling. 'Over, her cloathes, her coate of arms.' On the scroll:

"Intercede pro nobis ad Dominum . . ."'

The face only of the angel remains (1890), and is very beautiful, as is also the colouring of that portion of the robe which is left.

In the fourth light, the arms, as in the first light, are repeated; beneath is the figure of St. Ann kneeling; very little of the figure is left. 'Below are four or five daughters kneeling;' only three of them remain (1890), and of these the head of one only. On the scroll:

'Sancta Anna ora pro nobis.'

'In the limbe (margin) at the bottom this inscription:

'Aīābus Johannis Danvers militis et Dñī Anne . . . pro āīabus filiōr, filiārque suarū . . . Anno Dni MCCCCXX . . .'

The crescents are in all the Danvers' coats in the shields, showing that Sir John was of the second house of Danvers.

The window opposite, on the south side of the chancel, has also four lights, in which are the 'entire pictures of Sancta Magdalena, S^{ta} Katherina, S^{ta} Margerita, and S^{ta} Dorothea with her basket of roses; overthwart everyone a scroll, in which "As please God so be it."' In the second light is a shield, Dauntsey quartering Brancestre, and impaling Hungerford, beneath which is written:

'Rectoris . . . Benefactorum . . . hujus fenestri 1525.'

Probably these windows were all perfect when the sweet singer of the house of Herbert, newly married to the great-great-great-granddaughter of the first Danvers of Dauntsey, was staying in the old manor house, and was accustomed to muse and pray within the adjoining church. Above the tombs of his wife's ancestors he saw the picture of St. Fremund carrying in his hands his head, of Sir John Danvers kneeling in prayer beneath the figure of the Blessed Virgin, with the scroll:

'Sancta Dei genitrix semper virgo Maria ora pro nobis.'

There, too, were, with Sir John, the representations of his sons—'the young and old'—and there, too, he saw St. Dorothea with her poesy of roses, and above her head a scroll with the words, 'As please God so be it.' And with all this before him, George Herbert composed the hymn, 'To all Angels and Saints,' which may well rank amongst the most beautiful of his compositions:

'O glorious spirits, who after all your bands,
See the smooth face of God, without a frown
Or strict commands;
Where everyone is king, and hath his crown,
If not upon his head, yet in his hands:
Not out of envy or maliciousness
Do I forbear to crave your special aid.
I would address
My vows to thee most gladly, blessed Maid,
And Mother of my God, in my distress:
Thou art the holy mine, whence came the gold,
The great restorative for all decay
In young and old;
Thou art the cabinet where the jewel lay:
Chiefly to thee would I my soul unfold.
But now, alas! I dare not; for our King,
Whom we do all jointly adore and praise,
Bids no such thing:
And where His pleasure no injunction lays
('Tis your own case), ye never move a wing.
All worship is prerogative, and a flower
Of His rich crown, from whom lies no appeal
At the last hour:
Therefore we dare not from His garland steal,
To make a posy for inferior power.
Although, then, others court you, if ye know
What's done on earth, we shall not fare the worse,
Who do not so;
Since we are ever ready to disburse,
If any one our Master's hand can show.'

On the south side of the altar is a canopied recess, within which is a raised tomb, above which, against the wall, is a brass plate to the memory of Ann Danvers. She is no doubt buried with her husband beneath his tomb, and the history of the plate, suggested by Canon Jackson (MS. notes), is that Ann placed it during her lifetime within the recess belonging to a then existing tomb, probably that of her grandfather, Edmund Stradling. But some of the ornaments of the tomb are of a date later than the period of Edmund Stradling, and not improbably the present canopy* and its supporting pillars were added during the lifetime of Ann Danvers.

On the brass† within the recess Dame Ann is represented kneeling between, on her right hand, a representation of the Holy Trinity, and, on her left, the shield of the Dauntsey family. Over her head her name, Ann Danvers, is inscribed, and from her hands uplifted in prayer a scroll bearing the words, 'Dñe miserere mei.' Beneath is the inscription:

'What vayleth yt riches or what possession
Gyftes of high nature, nobles in gentry
Daftenes depuryd or pregnant pollycy
Sith prowess, sith power, have theyr progression
Fate it is fatall on short succession.
That world hath no thing that smellith not frealtie
Where most assurance, is most unsuertie.
Here lieth Dame Anne, the lady of Dauntsey
To Syr John Danvers spowse in conjunction,
To Syr John Dauntsey by lyne discencion
Cosyn and Heire; whose herytage highlye,
Fastely be firmed in Christe his Mancion.'

Upon the canopy are the words:

'I pray you of your charity, and in the worship of ye Trinitie, for an sole saye a Pater Noster and an Ave.'

The initials A. D. appear in several places on the tomb. In the centre of the canopy is the Dauntsey‡ shield supported by angels; to the left of this is a shield bearing the arms of Dauntsey, impaling 1 and 4 Arundel quartering, 2 Carminow, and 3 Coleshill. On a corresponding shield on the right-hand side is Dauntsey impaling Courtenay.

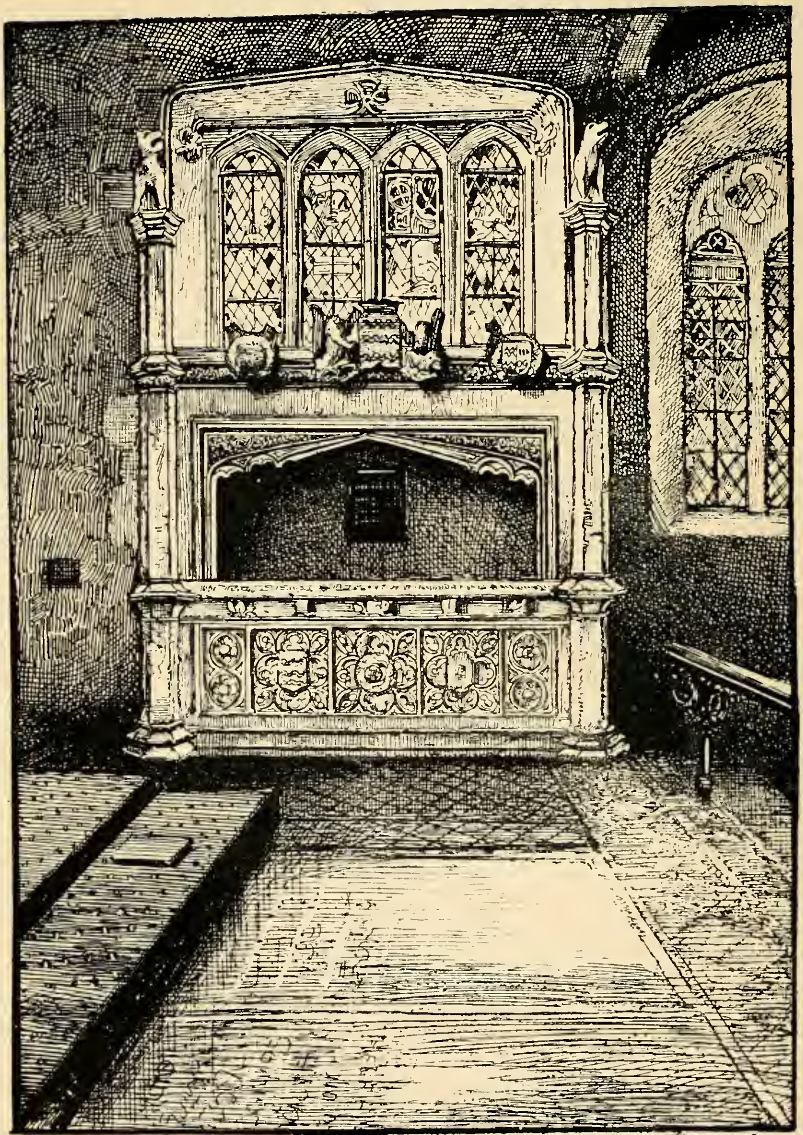
In the east window was once a shield displaying the arms of

---

* Comparison of the illustrations of the tombs in Dauntsey and Broughton Churches shows the likeness between this tomb and that of Edward Fiennes, who married the daughter of Ann Danvers, and died in her lifetime.

† This brass, and that on the tomb opposite, are figured and described in Kite's 'Brasses of Wiltshire.'

‡ Per pale or and argent, gules three bars undy.



Tomb of Dame Anne Danvers in Dauntsey Church.

Thomas Danvers (eldest son of Sir John and Anne Stradling), quartering Dauntsey impaling those of his wife, Margaret Courtenay, over it 'Danvers, Dauntesey, and Courtenay.' On another shield the arms of Sir Walter, afterwards Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury, and his wife Susanna Danvers. But the whole of the coloured glass of the east window has now (1894) disappeared.

'On the north side of the chancel is,' writes Aubrey, 'a handsome burying-place rayled with iron, which was built by the Earle of Danby; wherein lye buried 1, his father, old Sir John Danvers, 2, the Earl of Danby—who was, my cousin Villiers told me, page to Sir Philip Sydney—and Lady Gargrave, the Earl's sister.'

In the centre of this chapel is the noble altar-tomb of white marble, which was, as ordered by him in his will, erected to the memory of the Earl of Danby. The inscription states that he was second son to Sir John Danvers, and Dame Elizabeth daughter and co-heir to Nevil Lord Latimer, born at Dauntesey April 28, 1573, baptized in this church July 1 following, being Sunday. Died January 20, anno 1643, and lieth here interred. The inscription goes on to recount the Earl's employments and honours. On the east side of the tomb is the epitaph on the Earl, which was composed by George Herbert.

Let us for a short space revert to the subject of the first light of the window which is above the tomb of Sir John Danvers. In the upper compartment of the light appear the arms of Sir John, and below these was, in Aubrey's time, the picture of 'a king holding the head of a young king in his hands'; beneath this picture appeared the likenesses of Sir John's four sons, and on a scroll above their heads:

'Sancte Fredismunde ora pro nobis.'

Aubrey does not appear to have been acquainted with the legend of the saint; at any rate, he does not refer to any connection between the prayer upon the scroll and the subject of the picture beneath which the scroll was placed.*

St. Fredismunde, or Fremund, was a Saxon saint, a king, and a martyr, but not a saint of wide renown, and his body, in the time of Sir John Danvers, rested beneath an almost neglected shrine in the priory church of Dunstaple, a place with which the Danvers family do not appear to have been at any time or in any way connected. How, then, came it about that St. Fredismunde was, for a time at any rate, the patron saint of the Danvers family? Was it because the scene of his life or martyrdom was near their paternal home at Bourton or Prestcote? Let it be remembered that Prestcote signifies the 'priest's house,' and that Walter Gostelow, writing of Prestcote in the year 1655, says: 'Some religious house I conceive it to have been; an altar and chappel I have known in it.' Further, let us remember, that the house stands on slightly rising ground close to the confluence of the Charwell with a little stream which joins it from the north, that the ground around the house is very low, and that very possibly before the spread of cultivation in the neighbourhood the site was a wooded island, standing up amongst swamps; just such a safe and retired place as a recluse would fix upon for his hermitage. A little to the north of Prestcote the affluent of the Cherwell is crossed by 'Broadmoor' bridge; and the stream appears to have been called the 'Bradmere' in Leland's time, for he speaks of the confluence of the Cherwell and the Bradmere. Further, before relating the legend of St. Fredismunde, let us note that in his will Richard Danvers, of Prestcote, father of John Danvers, of Dauntsey, who was, we believe, buried in his parish church of Cropredy, close to Prestcote House, leaves 20 shillings to Sir Randle, chaplain of the chapel of St. Frethmund, to pray for his soul; he also leaves '100 shillings to the works of the body or nave of the prebend church of Cropredy, and 20 shillings towards the repair of the chapel of St. Frethmund, where his shrine is situated.' Richard's son, Sir John, of Dauntsey, leaves to Copredy Church, St. Frethmund Chapel, Culworth Church, and Dauntsey Church, 20 shillings each; while Ann, his wife, also makes a bequest of ten ewes 'to the chapel of St. Frethmund, in Copredy.' From these bequests it would appear that there was formerly a chapel of St. Frethmund in the church of Cropredy, and very likely another adjoining, or perhaps within, Prestcote House.

---

* Since the above was written, the Rev. Canon Wood, D.D., Vicar of Cropredy, has published in the *Antiquary*, numbers of May and June, 1893, a very interesting notice of St. Fremund.

The legend of St. Frethmund, or Fremund, is as follows, and we give it very nearly in the words of Mr. Hardy:*

Fremund was the son of a pagan king who reigned in England, named Offa, and of his queen, Botilda. He is baptized by Bishop Heswi, performs many miracles, and converts his parents. Offa resigns the kingdom to his son, who, after governing a year and a half, forsakes the throne to serve God in a desert place, accompanied by Burchard (who afterwards wrote his life). He then embarks in a vessel, and is driven to a small island called Ylefage, where he lives seven years on fruits and roots. Hinguar and Hubba ravage England and put St. Edmund to death. Offa sends twenty nobles to seek his son throughout England; on finding him they implore his aid. He attacks and defeats the enemy, but while he is prostrate in thanksgiving for the victory, Oswi, formerly one of Offa's commanders, who has apostatized, cuts off Fremund's head. Blood spurts over Oswi, who implores absolution and forgiveness, which the head grants. Fremund rises and carries his head some distance, where, a spring bursting forth, he washes his wound, falls prostrate in adoration and expires. His body is buried at the royal mansion called 'Offechurch' about the year 865, and is removed to a place between the Charwell and the Bradmere sixty-six years after his death. His body is again discovered by a Divine revelation in the time of Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester. It is then removed to a place called 'Redic,' and a chapel constructed over it. In later times the body is removed to Dunstaple.

The 'Acta Sanctorum' (volume containing St. Frethmund's Day, May 11) gives the legend very much as does Mr. Hardy, and refers to the same authorities for its materials. But Cressy, in his 'Church History,'† asserts that St. Fremund was not the son of Offa, but the son of a Duke of the East Saxons called Algar and his wife Thova, that he lived a hermit in solitary retirement, from which he was called to assist his countrymen against the Pagans who ravaged the land in

---

* Materials relating to History of Great Britain and Ireland, by Thomas Duffus Hardy (Rolls Series), vol. i., part 2, p. 521.

† Edition of 1668, p. 739.

King Ethelred's reign, and that he was slain in the year 871 at Wydford in Warwick, near Utchington.

We venture to think, in explanation of the names of the places mentioned in the legend, that St. Frethmund lived in his early days in Warwickshire, and that, desiring to live a religious life, and seeking for a place of retirement, he found one not far off his paternal home, at Prestcote; that there he lived, and that there his father's servants in their hour of need discovered him. The legend states that he was buried, in the first instance, where he fell at Offchurch, and that some sixty years after his body was translated to Prestcote, between the Charwell and the Bradmere, a place known at the time as the scene of his religious life and labours. That next, when the first church at Cropredy was built, a shrine was prepared for him there, and to it the body of the saint was translated. The 'Redic' of the legend we take to be the last two syllables of Cropredy. Finally, about the year 1207, the relics of the saint were removed to the church of Dunstaple Priory, a translation which may with great probability be explained as follows:

From Morin's 'Chronicles of Dunstaple' we learn that in the year 1206 Richard the Prior was, by the legate of the Holy See, made visitor of all men in religion in the See of Lincoln, in which Prestcote was, excepting Templars, Hospitallers, Cistercians, and Premonstratensians, and doubtless the good prior set forth on his first visitation with an ardent wish to serve those over whom he was placed, and to bring back from his travels valuables, especially relics, for the benefit of his Priory church and of his brethren. In the course of his journeyings he would visit the religious houses near Cropredy, Clattercote, Chaucombe, and others, and very probably the shrine of St. Frethmund and its chaplain at Cropredy, and there, we imagine, he found an opportunity for the gratification of his pious wishes. The village was a growing one, and sorely needed a new church, but could not find the funds wherewith to build. But, urges Prior Richard, that can be arranged if you will consent to part with the relics of St. Fremund, just keeping a bone or two to maintain the sanctity of the shrine. However this may have been, so it happened, as we learn from the chronicle of Dunstaple, that in the following year, 1207, an altar was dedicated in the Priory church to St. Fremund; and the good deed of the Prior bore its fruits—the fruit for which, no doubt, he had looked—for in the chronicle of the year 1210 we read: 'Circa Pascha in Ecclesia de Dunstaple Dei et Beati Frehemundi Regis et Martyris miracula a Deo crebuerunt, quod longe et latéque diffusa est fama et multiplicatæ sunt in populo gratiarum actiones.' One only other notice of St. Frethmund's shrine do we find in the chronicle, and that in the year 1275, when the brethren took from it 100 shillings wherewith to buy oats. Possibly the fame and shrine of some other saint by this time had eclipsed at Dunstaple that of St. Frethmund.* At the time of the Reformation the whole of the conventual part of the priory church of Dunstaple was destroyed, leaving only the nave with its aisles, with the west front, to serve, as it still does, as the parish church of the town. Neither in the post-Reformation records of Dunstaple nor of Cropredy can we discover any notice of the shrine or shrines of the Saxon king and martyr, St. Frethmund. It is right to add that Canon Wood in his notice of St. Fremund in the *Antiquary* gives a quite different explanation of the translation of the saint's relics to Dunstaple, which, says tradition, was in consequence of a sign given in a dream to Edelbert, a pilgrim to the Holy Sepulchre. He was to hasten homeward toward the river Charwell, where under a willow tree hard by a chapel where there were priests five he would rediscover St. Fremund's body, and a further sign was that he should find at the place a milk-white sow with young pigs. Edelbert obeyed the vision, and discovered the relics, which, with the consent of the bishop of the diocese, were removed to Dunstaple—though why Dunstaple should have been chosen does not from the legend appear.

In a recently printed appendix to his paper, Canon Wood records an interesting discovery at Prestcote House, embedded in the interior of which, and doubtless preserved from the older structure, is a sculptured stone of a sow with two pigs, which on inquiry the Canon was told was long since brought from Freeman's Holme. 'And there's no other place in these parts,' said an old man who had lived at Prestcote, 'that's called by that name.' Freeman's Holme, which Canon Wood identifies with Fremund's Island, is a flat field near Prestcote House, an island still by virtue of a tiny branch of the Charwell which runs round it, and joins the main stream at Cropredy bridge. And thus, with Canon Wood's good help, we have been able to explain how it is that in far-away Dauntesey Church, in a window above a Danvers tomb, is found pictured 'a king carrying a young king's head.'

---

* Cf. 'Bibliothec. Topograph. Britan.,' vol. iv., p. 57.

The manor-house of Dauntsey is situated close to the church, a wide terrace intervening between it and the river Avon. On the other side of the river is a broad expanse of meadow, doubtless the land to which the historian Aubrey (*circa* 1670) refers when he writes: 'Here is a stately park with admirable oakes; the ground, too, good. The meadowes and pastures here are famous at Smithfield market; no better fatting ground in England. Rich meadows watered by the Avon.'

The western and principal face of the house is comparatively modern, but at the back appear portions of an older house, which may very possibly belong to the manor house of the Danvers period.

The last of the male line of Danvers who inhabited Dauntsey House was Sir John, the regicide, to whom it came on the death of his brother, Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby. Sir John died at Chelsea, but his body was removed for burial to Dauntsey, and, as we learn from the parish register,* was buried in the church on April 28, 1655.

At the Restoration Sir John was attainted, but the greater part of his estates were restored to the family. Dauntsey, however, was not of these, and it was granted in 1662 to James, Duke of York, one of whose sons bore the title, Baron of Dauntsey. In 1685 the manor was granted to feoffees in trust for the Queen, Mary of Modena, and five years after, 1690, was granted by the Crown to Charles Mordaunt, Baron Mordaunt, afterwards Earl of Peterborough.*

---

* The only Danvers entries in the register are the above and the following:

March 27, 1654. Baptised Danvers S. of Danvers Allen. The child was buried the 10 November following.
1655. Buried Alice wife of Thomas Danvers, Gent., May 9.
1668. Buried Elizabeth Danvers.

On the floor of the chancel within the rails are two slabs, (1) Lieut.-General Harry Mordaunt, son of Lord Mordaunt, died January 5, 1719; and (2) Charles Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, died June 16, 1814, *æt.* 56 (Jackson's 'Aubrey's Wilts').

From the Mordaunt family Dauntsey descended to Mordaunt Fenwick, Esq., by whom it was sold to Charles W. Miles, Esq., and his brother (Jackson). The manor and estate were sold by the Miles family to the present owner, Sir Henry Meux, Bart.

The following table is compiled from that of the Rectors of Dauntsey which hangs in the church porch, and from the 'Institutions of the Bishops of Salisbury,' printed by Sir Thomas Phillipps in his 'Wiltshire Tracts' (British Museum Catalogue, 577, l. 24, and 577, l. 36):

Year.	*Name of Cleric.*	*Place.*	*Patron.*
1297	John de Hulle	Dauntsey	Unknown.
1298	Ric. de la Deen	Bremelham Chapel	Ric. de Dauntsey.
1303	Walter de Coleshull	Dauntsey	,, ,,
1303	Peter de Coleshull	,,	,, ,,
1323	Nich. Walrond	,,	,, ,,
1326	Thom. de Dauntsey	,,	,, ,,
1332	Robt. de Dauntsey	,,	,, ,,
1344		Corston Chapel	John de Bradenstoke.
1347	Bremelham Chapel and Chantry beatæ Annæ de Smythcote		Ric. de Dauntsey.
1347	Peter de Dauntsey	Dauntsey	,, ,,
1349		Smythcote Chapel	,, ,,
1350		Corston Chapel	John de Bradenstoke.
1353		Bremelham Chapel	John de Dauntsey.
1360	Robt. Graythorpe	Dauntsey	Unknown.
1360		Corston Chapel	John de Bradenstoke.
1376	Nich. Perkyn	Dauntsey	John de Dauntsey.
1379	Rich. Scut	,,	,, ,,
1384		Welpeley Chapel	Philip Dauntsey and wife Margaret.
1387		Smythcote Chapel	John Dauntsey.
1388		Welpeley Chapel	Philip Dauntsey.
1390		,, ,,	Episcop. per laps.
1390		Bremelham Chapel	John Dauntsey.
1393		Corston Chapel	Agnes, widow of W. Boteler.

---

* The families of Danvers and Mordaunt were connected by the marriage of Silvester Danvers with Elizabeth, daughter of John, first Baron Mordaunt.

Year.	*Name of Cleric.*	*Place.*	*Patron.*
1393	Nich. Steere	Dauntsey	John Dauntsey
1385		Corston	Agnes Boteler.
1396		Welpeley Chapel	Philip de Scutifer.
1405	Wm. Carryngton	Dauntesey	King Henry IV.
1412		Welpeley Chapel	Marye English, widow of Philip Dauntsey.
1412		Bremelham Chapel	The King.
1412		,, ,,	Walter Dauntsey Domisillus.
1414		,, ,,	Walter Dominus de Dauntsey.
1417		,, ,,	W. Hankford, and other feoffees.
1418	Walter Leye	Dauntsey	W. Hankford, and other feoffees.
1420	John Fairest	,,	W. Hankford, and other feoffees.
1428		Corston Chapel	Johanna Catermayn.
1429		,, ,,	,, ,,
1430		Bremelham Chapel	John Stradlyng.
1432	Wm. Bristowe	Dauntsey	,, ,,
1432		Corston Chapel	Johanna Quatermayn.
1433		Bremelham Chapel	John Stradlyng.
1439		,, ,,	John Dewale and Johanna his wife.
1439		,, ,,	John Dewale and Johanna his wife.
1442		Smythcote Chapel	Episcop. per laps.
1444		Bremelham Chapel	Johans de Dauntsey, jure uxoris.
1445		,, ,,	John Dewale.
1465	John Jonys	Dauntsey	Wm. Lygon and Elizabeth his wife by concession of feoffees of Edward Stradlyng.
1465		Bremelham Chapel	Wm. Lygon and Elizabeth his wife by concession of feoffees of Edward Stradlyng.
1502		Welperley	W. Cotterell.
1503	John Danyell	Dauntsey	Wm. (John ?) Danvers, Mil.
1507		Corston Chapel	Episcop. per laps.
1508	Rich. Walker	Dauntsey	John Danvers, Mil.
1517	John Gardner	,,	Anna Domina de Dauntsey.
1521		Chantry of St. Nicholas in Ecclesia de Bromeham	Edward Baynton, Mil.
1524		Corston Chapel	Coll. of St. Mary Magdalene, Oxon.
1528	Henry Wilkyns	Dauntsey	Ann Danvers.
1538		Cap. de Whelpeley	John Ryngwood, Arm.
1547	John Robynson	Dauntsey	Silvester Danvers.
1554		Bromeham	Andrew Baynton.

1584-91 and 1597-98 Bishops' Registers missing.

Year.	*Name of Cleric.*	*Place.*	*Patron.*
1595		Bremelham	Rex per laps.
1611	Elias Woodruffe	Dauntsey	Henry, Earl of Danby.
1727		Bremelham	,, ,,
1642	Ric. Chesshire	Dauntsey	Unknown.
1659	Robt. Davenant	,,	,,
1674	Willm. Clement	,,	James, Duke of York.
1703		Bremelham	Thomas Wharton, Rob. Welborne, pro hac vice.
1712	Lawrence Brodrick	Dauntsey	
1713	Joseph Trapp	,,	Henry, Viscount Bolingbroke.
1722	Peter Rival	,,	Charles, Earl of Peterborough.
1730	Thom. Burgess	,,	Earl of Peterborough.
1750	Robt. Atkins	,,	Executors of Charles, Earl of Peterborough.
1757	Francis M. West	,,	The Bishop, by lapse.
1800	George Bissett	,,	Charles, Earl of Peterborough.
1824	G. A. Bidermann	,,	Unknown.
1859	W. E. Elwell	,,	,,
1875	Arthur Law	,,	,,

The sketch which has been given of the history of the families of Dauntsey and Stradling leads on to that of their representative, Ann Stradling, the 'Lady of Dauntsey,' who, by her marriage with John Danvers, transmitted to his descendants the blood, honours, and heraldic achievement of many ancient and knightly families of the West Country.

Ann, as we learn from her father's post-mortem inquisition (No. 21 of 11 Edward IV.), was born in the year 1469, and at the time of his death was his heir—a heritage of which the subsequent birth of her brother, Edward, for a time deprived her. Sir John Danvers, her husband, was the second son of Richard Danvers, of Prestcote, and was born about the year 1455, a date which we with some certainty assume, since Richard, the elder brother, was, as we learn from their father's inquisition, born in 1451, or perhaps two or three years later.

Sir John was evidently the favoured son—possibly he was of a more vigorous and business-like character than his brother—anyhow, his father made him his executor, enfeoffed him of the Northamptonshire estates, and gave him the succession to those in Oxfordshire on his brother's death. Before his death, Richard Danvers witnessed the marriage of his son John with Ann Stradling, and the birth of their heir.

John Danvers and Ann Stradling were married on the 13th December, A.D. 1487, and in the marriage certificate Ann is called simply daughter of John Stradling, of Dauntsey. This implies that her brother Edward was still living, for had he not been so she would have been called daughter and heir of John Stradling, or sister and heir of Edward Stradling. It is almost certain that Ann's brother died within the next six or seven months, for in the deed* (Additional Charter 38869) which confirms the Culworth manors to her husband she is called 'sister and heir of Edward Stradling, of Dauntsey.'

The marriage certificate of John Danvers and Ann Stradling has been preserved, and is a very curious and an almost unique document. The certificate was written immediately after the ceremony of the marriage, and was no doubt placed, with the other family papers, in the muniment chest of Culworth manor house. There it remained till the manor passed away from the Danvers family towards the end of the eighteenth century. Since then it has, with the other Culworth muniments, changed hands more than once, and was in the year 1893 purchased by the British Museum, where it now figures as 'Additional Charter No. 38875.' The certificate sets forth that the marriage took place on December 13, 1487, in the chapel of the Holy Trinity, within the precincts of the College of St. Martin-le-Grand. The college was a house of Augustine canons, and, next to St. Paul's, was the oldest monastic foundation in the City.† It was a liberty in itself, and had right of sanctuary within its precincts—a privilege which lasted long after the dissolution of the religious houses. In the sanctuary Miles Forest, lately one of the murderers of the two princes in the Tower, died—rotted away piecemeal. The precincts extended over the site of the General Post-Office, and adjoined those of the Grey Friars, now the site of Christ's Hospital. The college was therefore close to Paternoster Row, where the Stradlings had a house inherited from the Beverley family, and it is quite possible that Ann Stradling was living there at the time, and that the chapel of the Holy Trinity was chosen for the marriage on account of its propinquity.

* Dated July 25, 1488.

† Cf. Besant's 'London.'

The certificate notifies that John Danvers, who is described as gentleman, and of the diocese of Lincoln, with his right hand took that of Anna, and said: 'I, John, take thee, Anna, to my wife, and pledge to you my faith.' Then, having withdrawn his hand, Anna incontinently took John by her right hand, and said: 'And I, Anna, take thee, John, to my man and husband, and to this I pledge you my faith.' And then they, having so said, and withdrawn their hands, kissed one another.

The certificate also sets forth the names of the worshipful and eminent gentlemen, dwellers in London, who, with many others, witnessed the marriage. The names given are as follows: Thomas Frowyk, Lewis Pollard, Richard Elyott, Thomas Ingylfeld (Englefield), Thomas Sabcotys (Sapcotes), Richard Langston, Thomas Marrow, Robert Brudenell, Edmund Tame, Edmund Bardesey, John Baff, Thomas Jakys, and William Malett.

Additional Charter 38875.

In dei nomine Amen per presens publicum Instrumentum cunctis Appereat evidenter Quod Anno Domini Millesimo quadringentesimo octuagesimo septimo Indictione Sexta pontificatus Sanctissimi in Christo Patris et Domini nostri domini Innocencii Passe octavi Anno quarto mensis vero Decembris die decimotercio. In quadam Capella sancte Trinitatis infra procinctum Collegii sancti Martini magni Civitatis London juxta Claustrum ejusdem Collegii situat' mei que Notarii publici subscripti et testium subscriptorum presencia Constituti personaliter Johannes Danvers generosus Lincoln' dioc' et Anna Stradlynge filia naturalis et legittima ut asseruit Johannis Stradlynge dum vixit de Daunsey Sarum dioc' nuper defuncti ubi et quando iidem Johannes et Anna palam publice et expresse dixerunt et affirmarunt tunc ibidem quod ipsi fuerunt et sunt concordati de matrimonio inter eos contrahere ac illud matrimoniem coram me notario publico et testibus subscriptis tunc ibidem presentibus contrahere voluerunt ut dixerunt et contraxerunt in hunc qui sequitur modum videlicet dictus Johannes Danvers capiens dictam Annam Stradlynge per manum suam dexteram dixit eidem Ego Johannes capio

te Annam in vxorem meam et ad hoc do tibi fidem meam et retraxerunt manus Et incontinenti tunc ibidem prefata Anna capiens dictum Johannem per manum suam dexteram dixit eidem sic Et ego Anna capio te Johannem in virum et maritum meum et ad hoc do tibi fidem meam et iterum retraxerunt manus et in hiis dictis et factis pariter osculati sunt ipse quoque Johannes eandem Annam uxorem suam et ipsa Anna dictum Johannem maritum suum hincinde nominantes et nominarunt Super quibus premissis omnibus et singulis prefati Johannes Danvers et Anna Stradlynge requisiverunt me notarium publicum subscriptum eis publicum vel publica conficere Instrumentum seu Instrumenta Acta fuerunt hec omnia et singula premissa prout suprascribuntur et recitantur sub Anno domini Indictione Pont' mense die et loco predictis presentibus tunc ibidem venerabilibus et Egregiis viris Thoma ffrowyk Lodowico Pollard Ricardo Elyott Thoma Ingylfeld Thoma Sapcotys Ricardo Langston Thoma Marrow Roberto Brudenell Edmundo Tame Edmundo Bardesey Johanne Baff Thoma Jakys et Willmo Malett generosis London' comorantibus Ac pluribus aliis testibus ad premissa vocatis specialiter et Rogatis.

Et Ego Willm̃s Chaunte clericus Norwicen' dioc' publicus Auctoritatibus apostolica et imperiali notarius curie que cantuarien' procurator generalis premissis omnibus et singulis dum sic ut premittitur sub anno domini Indiccioni pontificatu mense die et loco predictis agebantur et fiebant una cum prenominatis testibus presens personaliter interfui ea que omnia et singula sic fieri vidi et audivi aliunde que occupatus premissa per alium scribi feci publicum et in hanc publicam formam redegi manu que mea propria me hic subscripsi ac signo et nomine meis solitis et consuetis signam Rogatus et Requisitus in fidem et testimonium omnium et singulorum premissorum.

The names and lineage of the witnesses to the marriage are worthy of note. They are described in the deed as worshipful and eminent gentlemen, dwelling in London. And that the epithets were not misapplied may be judged of from the fact that, out of the thirteen witnesses who are named, eleven can

be identified after a lapse of four centuries. Thomas Frowyk (Sir) was of the ancient Middlesex family of that name, seated for many generations at Gunnersbury. He was the son of another Sir Thomas Frowyk,* of Gunnersbury. The younger Sir Thomas was a lawyer. Educated at the Inner Temple, he rose rapidly in his profession, and in the year 1502 was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He died in 1506, and was buried at Finchley. His widow married Thomas Jakys, Esq.—no doubt the Thomas Jakys who was one of the witnesses of the Danvers marriage. Thomas Frowyk was brother to the Sir Henry Frowyk who married John Danvers' first cousin, Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Danvers.

Lewis Pollard,† afterwards Sir Lewis Pollard, is enumerated by Prince amongst the worthies of Devon—'the fragrant odour of his faithfulness and reputation perfumes his memory to this day.' He also was a lawyer, and, like Sir Thomas Frowyk, rose to the position of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He died in the year 1540, but retired from the Bench some fifteen years before his death, and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Englefield, son of another of the witnesses. One of his daughters married Sir Hugh Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, of the family into which Thomas, eldest son of John and Anne Danvers, was to marry.‡ Richard Elyot, of the Devonshire family of that name, was also a lawyer, and of the Middle Temple. He was raised to the Bench as a Justice of the Common Pleas in the year 1513. Sir Richard made his will in the year 1520, and desired that he might be buried in Salisbury Cathedral, in the grave of Robert Elyot, probably his son. He died in the year 1522. Thomas Ingylfield§ was the Sir Thomas Englefield who married Margaret, John Danvers' sister. He was twice elected Speaker of the House of Commons, and became Justiciar of Chester. His son, Chief Justice Sir Thomas Englefield, followed Sir Thomas Frowyk on the Bench. Thomas Sapcotys, the next-named witness, was of the family of that name long settled in Lincolnshire,

---

* F. C. Cass's 'History of South Mimms,' and Foss's 'Judges of England.'

† Burke's 'Extinct Baronetages,' and Foss's 'Book of Judges.'

‡ *Ibid.* § *Ibid.*

Rutland, and Northampton. He was, no doubt, Thomas Sapcotts of Burlegh, Northampton. The Sapcotts were allied to the Tames,* a Northamptonshire family, to which Edmund Tame, another of the witnesses, belonged. Richard Langston, the next witness, was the Richard Langston, son of John Langston and Amicia Danvers—cousin, therefore, to the bridegroom. Thomas Marow was also a lawyer, a Serjeant-at-law. He was the grandson of Sir William Marow, Lord Mayor of London in the year 1456. Thomas Marow† was of Berkswell, Warwick. He died in the year 1530, and was buried at Wolston, Warwick. Robert Brudenell, afterwards Sir Robert Brudenell,‡ was of the famous Buckinghamshire and Northampton family of that name, son of Edward Brudenell and Philippa Englefield. He was a lawyer, and was made Chief Justice in the year 1520. He married a cousin of John Danvers. His first wife was Margaret Entwissell, of Stanton Wyvil, by whom he had issue. His second wife was Philippa, daughter of Elizabeth Danvers and Thomas Poure. He died in the year 1631, and was buried, with his two wives, in Dean Church, Northampton, where their monument remains. Edmund Bardesey and John Baff we have failed to identify. William Malett,§ the last of the witnesses, was the son of Thomas Malet, of the Malets of Enmore, Somerset. He was dead in the year 1530, when his son and heir, Hugh, presented to the church of Enmore.

Doubtless the bride and bridegroom left London not long after their marriage for their home at Culworth, and were warmly greeted on their arrival by old Richard Danvers, who was living close by at Prestcote. Two years after the marriage Richard Danvers died, and John Danvers became absolute possessor of the Culworth and Sulgrave manors. Not till the death of his elder brother Richard, in the year 1505, did he become owner of Prestcote manor and manor-house. In the year 1494 John Danvers was still living in Northamptonshire, for he was that year Sheriff of the county; but shortly after he must have removed to Dauntsey, as in the year 1503 he was Sheriff of Wiltshire. Let us connect this part of John Danver's life with the history of the times, by bearing in mind that his marriage took place about two years after the battle of Bosworth, and the death of Richard III. had placed Henry VII. on the throne. The Danvers marriage followed very closely upon that of the Lancastrian King with the Princess Elizabeth of York—the marriage which finally united the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and gave to the children of the King the hereditary right to the throne which in his own case was wanting. In the year 1501, on the occasion of the marriage of the Heir-Apparent, Prince Arthur, John Danvers was made a 'knight of the sworde,' and the crest he bore, two hands conjoined, was probably a tribute to the occasion.

---

* Harleian Society, vol. iii., p. 46; and Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 152.

† Dugdale's 'Warwickshire,' p. 981.

‡ Foss's 'Judges,' and Brydges Collins' 'Peerage,' vol. iii., p. 487.

§ Collinson's 'Somerset,' vol. i., p. 90, and vol. iii., p. 496; also Harleian Society, vol. vi., p. 178.

The year 1503, the year that John Danvers was Sheriff of Wilts, was that of the death of the Queen, and of the commencement of the intrigues on the part of the widowed King, who hoped by a second marriage to strengthen his position in Europe. It was a time of peace at home, and of growing prosperity both to the middle classes—whether represented by the country gentleman or the City merchant—and to the industrial classes also; for it was the policy of the King, as it was his natural bent, to encourage trade and commerce.

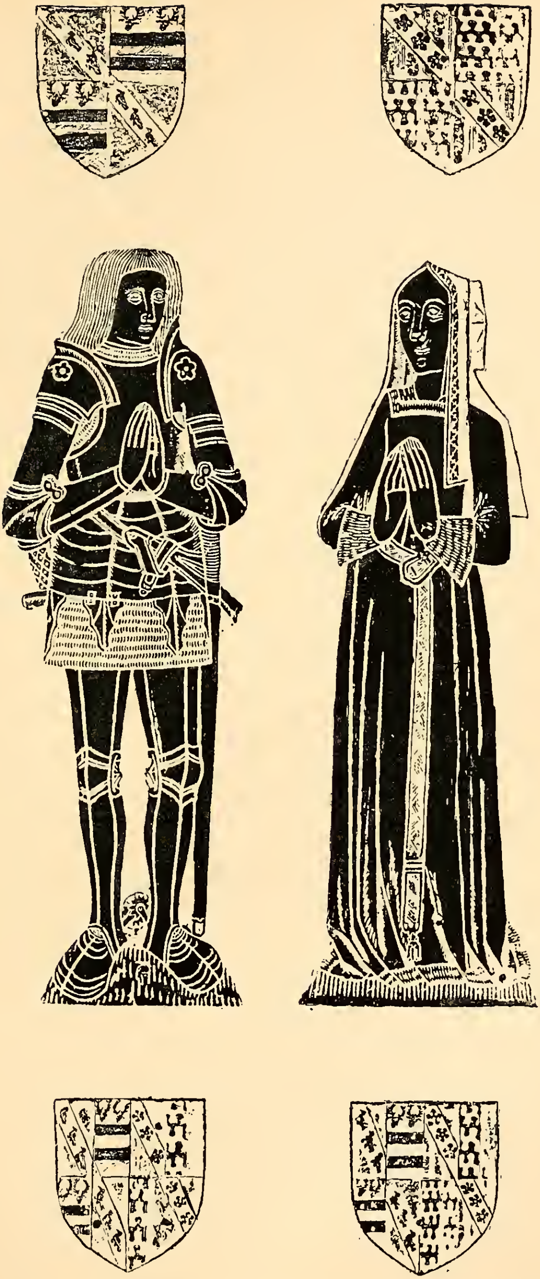
In the year 1511, the feoffees of the manor of Prestcote, Thomas Lovett and Thomas Langton, confirmed to Sir John Danvers and his wife Anne the said manor, and a facsimile of the deed is appended. The seals are, unfortunately, imperfect, but the signatures of the feoffees are quite legible. Amongst the witnesses we find the name of Thomas Lovett, son of the Thomas who signs the deed.

In the year 1513 Sir John Danvers was again Sheriff of Wiltshire, and at this time a numerous family had grown up about him—four sons and six daughters. Of the sons, the eldest, Thomas, was married to Margaret Courtenay, and three of the daughters were also married. This, the year 1513, was the last of the life of Sir John Danvers; his lines had fallen to him in pleasant places, and as he paced the terrace which then, as now, intervened between Dauntsey manor house and the Avon, and took counsel with his wife regarding their affairs, their children and estates, he had good reason to remember the many happy and prosperous years that they had spent together at Culworth, and Prestcote, and Dauntsey, while the many sons and daughters growing up about them gave promise of the continuance of their line. Sir John's will bears evidence to the confidence and affection which ruled between himself and his wife; it was made on January 2, 1514, and was proved in London on the 24th of the same month. The inscription on his tomb tells us that he died on the 14th.

The Northamptonshire post-mortem inquisition is in file 684 of second series of Escheators' Accounts, Record Office Calendar, 12 Henry VIII. It states that John Danvers Miles died seised of the manors of Culworth Mandeville, Culworth Pinkeney, and Sulgrave Pinkeney; it recites the trustees appointed, and that the manors were to pass to use of his son Richard, and failing him to the use of William Danvers, third son of John and Anne. His heir is his son Thomas, of full age. Anne, wife of John, holds and occupies the manors.

With reference to the above manors, the will illustrates the plan customary at the time when the testator wished to leave landed property otherwise than to his eldest son. By a prior deed John Danvers had placed those manors in the hands of trustees, Sir Thomas Englefield, Sir Richard Fowler, and others, with a declaration that he desired after his death his second son, Richard, and his heirs male should have the use of them; and that failing these his third son, William, and his heirs male should enjoy the use. And now, though he may not will away the landed property, he can will that his former declaration should take effect according to its full tenor, and the manors will therefore be transferred by the trustees to the use of the third son, William Danvers, and his heirs male.

It is noticeable, too, that there is no mention in the will of the eldest son, Thomas, but that he was present and agreed to the provisions is evidenced by his signature, which, as a witness, is attached to the will. After payment of the legacies



MONUMENTAL BRASS OF SIR JOHN AND DAME ANN DANVERS
IN DAUNTSEY CHURCH.

for religious purposes, and to his three unmarried daughters, John Danvers leaves all his personal property to his wife, desiring her to be 'good mother to her children and myn.' Doubtless at the time of their marriage the manor of Dauntsey and other manors had been settled for life upon Ann, and at Dauntsey she seems mainly to have resided during her long widowhood. And so John Danvers was laid to his rest in the sanctuary in the neighbouring church to the north of the altar, and there his wife erected to him, and to herself, the raised tomb which still exists, while in the window above she inserted the painted glass, of which, unhappily, but little remains.

John Danvers, Knight. (4 *Holder.*)

In the name of God Amen. The 2nd day of January 1514. I Sir John Danvers Knight do make my last will in manner following:

I bequeath to my Mother Church of Sarum 3s. 4d., and to the Mother Church of Lincoln 3s. 4d. Also to Cropredye Church, St. Frethemonde Chapel, Culworth Church and Dauntesey Church 20s. each.

Also I bequeath to my daughters Margaret, Susan and 'Costaunce' 'to help to marry them' £100 each 'if they be of good rule and disposicion, and to be ordered in their marriage by myn Executors. And else not to have a penyworth of my goodes. Whereas there is a recovery had by Sir Thomas Englesfeld and Sir Richard Fowler Knights and others against me the said Sir John Davers and Dame Anne my wife by a "Write of entree in the post" of the Manors of Coulworth Maundevile, Coulworth Pynkney and Sulgrave Pynkney with their appurtenances in the county of North, as may appear by the records of the 2nd and 3rd year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, the intent whereof I have declared in a declaration signed and sealed by me bearing date the 11th day of December 3 Hen. 8 [15] I now will that everything comprised within the said declaration do take effect according to the tenour thereof.'

The residue of all my goods I give to Anne my wife desiring her to be 'good mother to her children and myn.'

I make my Executors the said Anne and Richard my son charging the latter with my blessing to meddle with no manner of administration during his mother's life but with her advice,

Witnesses: Thomas Davers Esq., John Baker, clerk, Richard Barkeley gentleman and Harry Bagoot, with others.

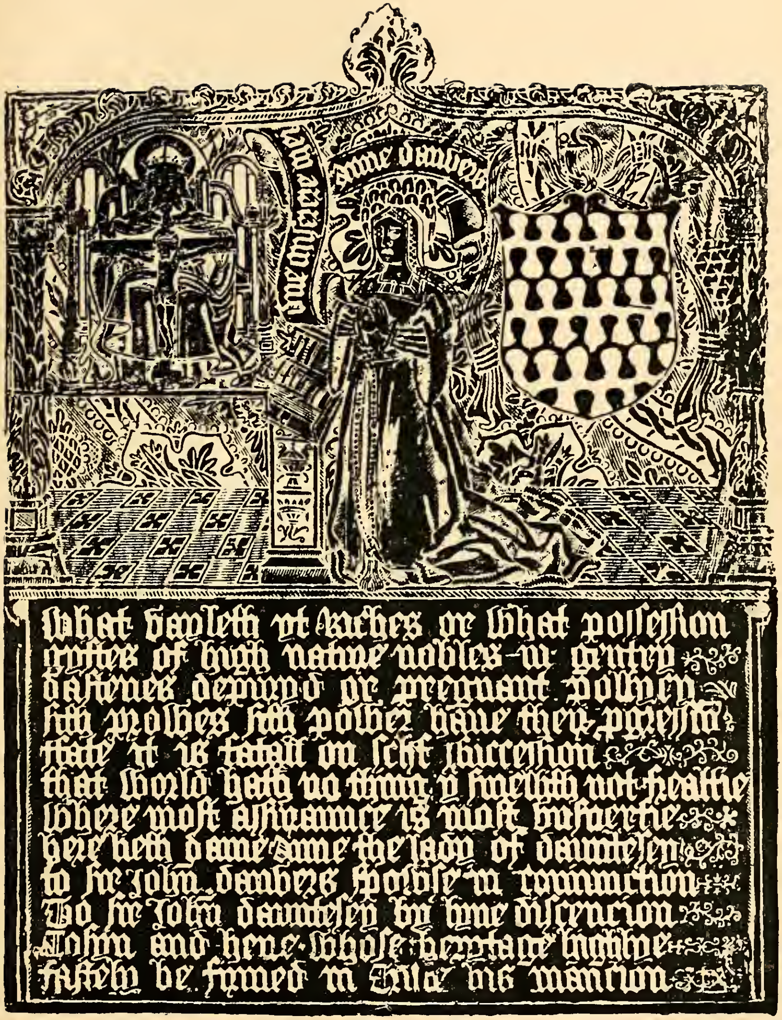
Proved at Lambeth the 24th day of January, 1514.

(4 *Holder*.)

Whereas Thomas Englesfeld, Richard Fowler Knts Edward Chamberlayne Thomas Langston John Fetyplace &c. &c. have recovered against me the said Sir John Davers and Dame Anne my wife by a 'writ of entree in the post' the manors of Culworth Maundevyle, Culworth Pynkeney, and Sulgrave Pynkney, as by the Records of Easter term 2 and 3 Hen. 8 may appear: my will is that the said Sir Thomas Englesfeld and his co-recoverers shall remain feoffees in all the premises to the use of me (Sir John Danvers) and of Dame Anne my wife for our lives; and after our decease to the use of Richard Danvers our son and of his heirs male, and for default of such issue to the use of William Danvers and John Danvers my sons for the term of their lives, and after their decease to the use of my heirs, and for default to the use of the right heirs of me the said Sir John Danvers.

Ann Danvers survived her husband twenty-five years, and, from an expression which she uses in the first paragraph of her will, it seems likely that she had taken vows such as were common with widows in those days, and in token thereof wore the brown robe and ring of her vocation. Doubtless so well endowed a widow, still but middle-aged, would have had many and urgent suitors had she not thus protected herself against all advances of the kind. If in her will we read Ann's character aright, she was a masterful woman, quite able to manage her own estates, a prudent housekeeper, yet withal devout and charitable, a very lady bountiful amongst her poor neighbours, a careful, loving mother and relative, and a kind and thoughtful mistress.

The Dauntsey estates, with those that had belonged to her husband in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, were hers for life, and it would seem that she retained her interest in the Cornish estates which she had brought to her husband, for in



What vaileth yt riches or what possession
Wyttes of high nature nobles in gentry
Lustines deemyd or pregnant polycy
Sith nobles sith power have they progression
State it is fatall on such succession
That world hath no thing y lyveth not healthe
Where most assurance is most unsuertie
Here lieth dame Anne the lady of Dauntesey
to Sir John danvers spowse in conjunction
Two Sir John Dauntesey by lyne discencion
John and Here whose heritage lyneally
Justely be fixed in that his mansion

the De Banco Roll of 21 Henry VIII., concerning the advowson of Lanyvett Church, Ann Danvers, widow of John Danvers, is a party to the suit. And besides these estates, she had others which had been bought from the neighbouring convents of Bradenstoke and Malmesbury, no doubt at the time when the religious houses, in anticipation of the coming storm, were converting into ready money those lands which they had power to sell. Moreover, we see in the dispositions of her will that Ann Danvers had a thorough knowledge of the resources of her well-stocked farms, and we witness there also the careful mother stocking the farms of her younger sons, and the careful householder arranging for the maintenance of her dearly-loved home, 'the house of Dauntesey,' and for the corn for those who should visit Culworth for the performance of her will. And, as usual in those days, Dame Ann, a religious woman, provides for the repose of her soul—a thousand masses to be said by poor priests and scholars at Oxford, and one hundred shirts and smocks to poor folks about Dauntesey and Prestcote to pray for her; gifts to relatives and friends for the same purpose; and at Dauntesey an honest priest for twelve years, with a stipend of £6 13s. 4d., to pray for her soul and for all Christian souls. And we may notice that the priest whom she appoints is Sir Thomas Greenwoode, not the parson of Dauntesey, Sir Henry Wilkyns, whom in the year 1528 Ann, *Domina de Dauntesey*, had preferred to the living, and to whom she leaves the colt that she had bought at Somerford.

Ann Danvers seems to have lived occasionally at Prestcote, which we know was at times the home of her early married life, a period of which a relic remains in the initials of her name, 'A. D.,' carved upon the screen of the Prestcote chapel. A curious hint of her journeyings appears in the will. The legacy of the ten ewes which she intended for the shrine of St. Frethmund is altered, and the ewes are given to the Church of Swerford, that her soul may be prayed for in that church. Very likely she was in the habit of resting the first night at Swerford on her way from Prestcote to Dauntsey, and remembering her visits to the village, is led to divert her gift from St. Frethmund's shrine at Cropredy.

During her widowhood, and before her death, great changes had taken place amongst Dame Ann's family. Thomas, her eldest son, was dead, and Silvester, his son, was now heir to her estates, and to him she leaves all the household stuff, not otherwise bequeathed, in her house of Dauntesey. He is married to Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Mordaunt. Richard, her second son, is also dead, and lies buried near the Temple Church in London. William, her third son, is married to Elizabeth Fiennes, and has two sons—John, the eldest, and Thomas, to whom Dame Ann makes a bequest. She has long since, during the lifetime of her son Thomas, and by arrangement with him, secured the possession of the manors of Culworth and Sulgrave to William and his heirs. John, her youngest son, is also married, and to him she leaves her farm of Tocknam. Of her daughters, Dorothy, the eldest, has lost her first husband, John Fettiplace, and is now married to Sir Anthony Hungerford. Elizabeth, the second daughter, is married to Sir John Abarowe, and has a daughter, Mary; and the third, Margaret, who was married to Edward Fiennes, has, since his death, married Thomas Nevell, whom Dame Ann makes one of her executors. She remembers in her will her grandson, Richard Fiennes, who in due time will carry on the long line of his ancestry. Ann, the fourth daughter, has also lost her first husband, Thomas Lovett, and is now married to . . . Wykes, probably the Wykes who witnesses the will. Susan, the fifth daughter, is the first wife of Lord Hungerford, and Constance, the youngest daughter, is married to John Staveley, and has a daughter, Dorothy.

And so Ann, the lady of Dauntsey, dies, having accomplished her threescore years and ten, and is buried amongst her ancestors in the chancel of Dauntsey. It may be on the south side of the altar, where possibly during her lifetime she had placed the inscribed brass which still remains, but more probably in her husband's tomb on the north side of the chancel. Her will runs as follows:

Will of Lady Anne Davers widow. (1 *Alenger.*)

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th day of November, 31 Hen. 8 [1539]. I Dame Anne Danvers widow late the wife of Sir John Danvers Knt. 'in my pure widowhood being hole of mynde and of good Remembrance' do make my will as follows:

I bequeath to the Mother Church of Sarum xx^s; to the high altar of the Church of Dauntesey xx^s; to the Churches of Cropredy, Cowlworthe, Brynkworthe, Cristenmalforn, Seygrey & Brodsomerford 6^s 8^d each.

To my cousin Silvester Danvers I give all my household stuff (in my will unbequeathed) in my house of Dauntesey, my second bason and ewer of silver & my 2 salts gilt &c. &c. which must be left to the heirs male, and this plate to remain in the custody of my son Sir Anthony Houngerford until the said Silvester shall accomplish the age of 24 years. If the said Silvester die then the plate to remain in the hands of the said Sir Anthony to the use of my son John Danvers, Provided that if the said Silvester will not permit my Executors to execute this my will or if he in any way trouble my sons William or John Danvers or my servant James Vanse or any other to whom I have given any of my lands or any annuities or annual rents as comprised in a pair of Indentures between my Lord Mordaunte and me, then the bequests made to him shall be void & shall remain to the use of my son John Danvers.

To my son John Danvers I give 2 good featherbeds and 10 kine of them that be at Tocknam.

I also give to my son John & to his wife my farm of Tocknam which I have by Covent Seale of the house of Bradenstoke. I will that 200 of my sheep of my stock at Cowlwerth and Prescote be brought to Tokenam to the use of my said son John. If my son John & his wife die without issue then I will that my son William Danvers have all the years yet to come in the same farm of Tokenam.

I will that my Executors suffer the tething of Seygreve which I have of the house of Bradenstoke to be occupied by the oversight of Sir Henry Wylkyns for maintenance of the house of Dauntesey. To my son John all the young horses at Prescote at the time of my death. One cow to each of the churches of Cropredy and Cowlworth. And whereas I have given ten ewes to the chapel of S^t Frethmund in Cropredy, I now will that the said ewes be given to the church of Swerford that I may be prayed for there. I give to my son Nevell one of my standing cups with the cover, also £20 that he borrowed of me.

I give to his young son William Nevell £10, and to my daughter Margaret his [*sic*] wife one of my best diaper towels, &c. desiring my said son to be good and assisting my Executors in the performance of this my will.

To my daughter Constance Staveley I give my kirtle of black damask &c.

To the preferment of Dorothy Staveley in marriage I give £10.

I give to my son John Abarro £10 which he borrowed of me, & to my daughter Elizabeth his wife I give a pair of fine sheets &c. also towards their daughter Mary Barow marriage £10 to pray for me.

I give to my son William Danvers my silver salt with the cover that is occupied every day at the second mass, to him also all the debts owing to me for sheep and other stuff at Prescote. I will that his son Thomas Danvers shall have £20 of the debts to find him an exhibition to school.

To my said son William I give 12 score of wethers out of my stock of Cowlworthe. I also give him my farm which is called Fulweke beside Chippenam which I purchased of the late Abbot of Malmesbury.

Whereas I have certain yeres yet to come in the parsonage of Colworth I will that my son William have it for all the years, he finding corn sufficient for such as shall come into those parts for the performance of my last will.

I give to Water [*sic*] Houngerford the younger my best 2 pots parcel gilt, to be kept by my son Sir Anthony Houngerford until the said Water shall be married, but if he happen to die then the said pots to remain to my Lord Hungerford his father.

To Richard Fynes I give my best bason & ewer of silver when he shall be 21.

To my daughter Dorothy Lady Houngerford my great bowl with the cover gilt, and after her decease to my Goddaughter Bridget Houngerford for ever.

Further I desire my daughter Hungerford that she will do so much for me as to send to Oxforde amongst the poor priests and scholars there after her discretion to have 1,000 masses immediately after my decease; and also to have 100 shirts & smocks to be given to poor folks about Dauntesey and Prescote to pray for my soul.

To Sir Anthony Houngerforde I give one of my gilt standing cups with the cover, to him also the £60 which I laid out for young Thomas Staveley, desiring him to see this my will fully performed.

I give to my daughter Anne Wykes 2 kine.

I give to William Houngerford to help to find him to school £10.

To Robert Buckull I give 2 kine & £3 6s. 8d. in money to help my Executors to perform my will.

To my Goddaughter Anne Adams to pray for me I give a heifer and 20s.

[Long list of legacies to servants.]

I will that my Executors distribute amongst the poor householders next adjoining to Dauntesey & Prescote 12^{d} to every house as they shall think necessary to the sum of £10.

I give to Mr. Baker vicar of Clame (*sic*) my nag called Rosse.

To Sir Henry Wylkyns parson of Dauntesey I give the colt that I bought at Somerford.

To Sir William Smalbone I give a colt or a mare which ever he prefer.

To John Gyldon my Godson I give my farm of Cowiche which I have by Covent Seal of the house of Bradenstoke and I will that he suffer his mother Margery Long to have an honest chamber within the said farm.

I give to Constance Danvers towards her preferment in marriage £100 to be delivered to her by my Executors if she be ruled in marriage by them, 'or else not one penny.'

I will that my Executors find an honest priest for 12 years next after my death in the Church of Dauntesey to pray for my soul & for all Christian souls he to have for his stipend £6 13s. 4d., whom I will shall be Sir Thomas Greenwoode, & after him the said priest to be appointed by the parson for the time being and by my Executors.

I will there be left in the Manor of Dauntesey 12 kine &

8 oxen to the use of my son Silvester, to be delivered to him at his age of 21, if he decease before attaining that age then the kine & oxen to remain to my son John Danvers.

I give to my Godson 'the Clerk of Dauntesey his son' to help to find him to school a cow and a heifer.

I will that my Executors take the issues and profits for 12 years of all such lands & Sir Anthony Houngerford and Dame Dorothy his wife, Thomas Nevell Esq. & Will. Danvers my son have for the term of 3 lives by my grant.

I make my Executors Sir Anthony Hungerford Knt. my daughter Dorothy his wife, Thomas Nevell, my son William Danvers & Robert Buckull.

Witnesses John Wykes Esq. George Worth gentleman, Henry Wylkyns, clerk, John Foster, clerk, & James Vanse.

Proved at London the 21st day of January 1539.

[After some of the legacies to servants and others is written 'trusting Silvester will do the same.']

Sir Thomas Danvers, the eldest son of Sir John, married Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, Devon, and his wife Cicely, the daughter of Sir John Cheney, of Pincourt.* In the Patent Roll of 3 Henry VIII. Thomas Danvers is called of Powderham, Devon, and is pardoned for having in self defence killed one James Leore. Thomas died in the year 1532 (24 Henry VIII.). His post-mortem inquisition† taken at Lostwithyell in Cornwall states that his son and heir, Sylvester, was 13 years, 41 weeks, and 2 days old at the time of his father's death. The inquisition refers to a deed of settlement between Sir William Courtenay and Sir John Danvers and his wife Ann, of 2 Henry VIII., which settled upon the heirs of Thomas Danvers and his wife Margaret the manors of Bevamye, Stratton,

---

* This Sir William was renowned for his martial prowess, *temp.* Henry VIII. He died in 1512. He was the son of Sir William Courtenay, eldest son of Sir Philip. Sir Philip, sixth son of Hugh de Courtenay, second Earl of Devonshire of his name, was direct ancestor of the present Lord Viscount Courtenay. Brydge's 'Collins's Peerage,' edition of 1812, vol. vi., p. 262.

† 46 of 25 Henry VIII., and 20 of 29 Henry VIII.

Swancottes, St. Mary Wyke, St. Clare Coleshill, Liskerd Coleshill, and Wykeborough.*

Besides his son Sylvester, Thomas left two daughters, Constance and Ann. Constance is mentioned in her grandmother's will. Richard Danvers, the second son of Sir John, was a lawyer and belonged to the Inner Temple. According to Aske, 'he died in the Temple Church.'† Lansdowne MS., 260, p. 108, records that 'in the round walke before the west doare in the Temple Chirche under a marble stoane in an armour picture & scutchons, att his feet this: "Here resteth R^c Danvers armiger late fellow of thinner temple 2 sonne to S^r John Danvers K^t, lord of Dauntesey in comitatu Wilts in right of his wyfe, who dyed y^e 17 of July 1517, his scutchon quarterly 1 & 3 pales & a bend charged with 3 cinquefoils, the second 2 barres nebulee"' (Stradling and Dauntsey).

Of the daughters, Dorothy, the eldest, married first John Fettiplace‡ (died 1524), of East Shefford, Berks. He was grandson of a John Fettiplace who was brother to William the first husband of Katherine wife of Sir Robert Danvers. Dorothy's second husband was Sir Anthony Hungerford, of Down Ampney. She died in the year 1557, and was buried in East Shefford church.

Susan, Dorothy's younger sister, married Sir Walter Hungerford.

The Hungerfords§ were for many generations amongst the wealthiest and most powerful of the Wiltshire families. They appear to have sprung originally from Hungerford in Berks, but members of the family held lands in Wiltshire in the twelfth century. The first of them to settle in the county was Walter, who married Maud, daughter of John de Heytesbury. By alliances and other means the family amassed great wealth and large landed possessions. In lineal descent from Walter was the Sir Walter of Heytesbury, who died in the year 1449. He was followed in the Heytesbury estates by his son Robert, while he settled on the other son, Edmund, the Down Ampney estates which he had purchased. Of the latter branch was the Sir Anthony Hungerford who married Dorothy Danvers, and was executor to her mother, Dame Anne. Sir Anthony had previously married Jane Darrell, by whom he had five sons and a daughter Dorothy, who married John Fettiplace. His eldest son, John, married Bridget Fettiplace, the Bridget mentioned in Dame Ann's will. Sir Anthony's second wife, Dorothy Danvers, died in 1559; by her he had two sons, George and Henry, and two daughters, Jane and Ann.

---

* Manors which Ann Danvers inherited from the Blanchminsters through the families of Hiwis, Coleshill, Arundell, and Dauntsey.

† 'Collect. Topograph. et Genealog.'

‡ Harleian MSS., 1532, p. 40; and 1139, p. 100; and Clarke's 'Hundred of Wantage,' pedigree of Fetiplace.

§ See Dugdale's 'Baronage,' vol. ii., p. 203, and Sir Richard Hoare's 'Hungerfordiana.'

The Sir Walter Hungerford whom Susanna Danvers married belonged to the elder, or Heytesbury, branch of the family, and was called to Parliament in 28 Henry VIII. by the title of Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury. He appears to have made himself obnoxious to the king by opposing his schemes, and was attainted and executed on Tower Hill in 1541. Lord Hungerford was three times married; first to Susan Danvers, second to Alice Sandys, third to Isabel, daughter of Lord Hussey. By Susan, his first wife, he had a son, Sir Walter, who is mentioned in Dame Ann's will. He became Sir Walter of Farley Castle, and was known by the sobriquet 'amicis amicissimus.' He left a son and three daughters, but the son dying without issue, the elder branch of the Hungerford family became extinct in the male line.

Elizabeth, the second daughter of Sir John Danvers, married, during her father's life, Sir John Abarowe, or d'Abarow, son and heir of Sir Morrice Abarowe (Aske's pedigree of Danvers), of the ancient family of that name, long seated at Dichett and Northborough in Somerset. Sir John and his wife were both alive in 1539 when Dame Ann Danvers made her will, and had then a daughter, Mary, to whom her grandmother left £10 towards her marriage to pray for her. The 'Visitation of Warwick' (Cat. No. 438), in the library of Caius College, Cambridge,* states that Elizabeth married first Burrowe (one of the many ways of spelling Abarowe), and, secondly, Lord

---

* See also 'Visitation of Oxon,' Harleian Society, vol. v.

Audley; but the latter match does not appear in the Audley family's tables of descent.

Margaret, the third daughter, married Edward Fiennes, of Broughton Castle, who died in the year 1528, leaving a son, Richard. Richard is mentioned in his grandmother's will; he succeeded to the family honours and estates. His sister, Elizabeth, married Sir Francis Barrantyne, of Great Haseley, Oxon.

From Dame Ann's will we learn that Margaret Fiennes took as her second husband Thomas Nevell, who, as we learn from the will, had a young son named William. Thomas Nevell was of Holt, Leicester. According to Nichols' 'History of Leicester,' vol. ii., p. 730, he was three times married: (1) to Clara, daughter and coheir of Ralph Nevell, of the same family, by whom he had a daughter, Margaret, eventually her father's heir; (2) Katherine, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Foljambe, of Walton; (3) daughter of . . ., of Oxfordshire, and this third wife was no doubt Margaret, widow of Edward Fiennes. Sir Thomas Nevell was Sheriff of Leicester in the year 1539; he died in 1669.*

No

? 1569

The Thomas Lovett who married Ann Danvers, fourth daughter of Sir John Danvers, belonged to the ancient family of Lovett,† or Loueth, one of whom settled at Astwell, in Northampton. Thomas Lovett died in July of the year 1523; and his inquisition states that his son and heir, Thomas, was at the time six years of age.‡ He left two other sons and three daughters; neither of the sons left heirs male, and the Astwell estate passed to John Shirley, of Rakedale, Leicester, who married Jane, daughter of Thomas Lovett and Ann Danvers. From her the present noble family of Ferrers is descended.

---

* Additional Charter 38882; also Harrison's Index (Record Office), vol. xii., pp. 461 and 694; also Nichols as above, and 'Family of Foljambe,' 'Collect. Topograph. et Genealog.,' vol. i., p. 359; also Burke's 'History of Landed Gentry,' 'Neville of Holt,' and Harleian Society's publications, vol. v., p. 21. See also Daniel Rowland's 'History of the Family of Nevill,' London, 1830.

† See R. E. C. Waters' 'Family of Chester,' and Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 732; Bridge's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 217; Betham's 'Baronetage,' vol. iv., p. 87; Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. iii., p. 457.

‡ Exchequer Escheats, Series 2, File 795, 14 Henry VIII.

Baker, in his 'History of Northamptonshire,' states that Ann died before her husband, Thomas Lovett; but this seems to be a mistake, as she was alive when her mother,* Dame Ann, made her will in the year 1539, and was then married to . . . Wykes, no doubt one of the ancient Devonshire family of that name, of Northwyke. The signature of Thomas Lovett is, with that of Thomas Langston, appended to the deed dated A.D. 1511, by which they, as feoffees, confirm to John Danvers the manor of Prestcote. Amongst the witnesses is Thomas, son of Thomas Lovett.

The John Stavely who married Constance Danvers was son and heir of George Stavely, of Bignell, Oxon, and his wife Isabel, daughter of Sir John Strelly, of Lynby, Notts. The Dorothy Stavely† mentioned in Dame Ann's will was the eldest daughter of Constance, who had besides two sons and two daughters. John Stavely was 'a very profuse person and spent and sold almost all his estate, consisting of many manors and lordships, excepting those settled as jointure on his wife Constance, which, she surviving, descended to his heirs, and, proving to be so good a support to her family, her memory is gratefully preserved by her descendants.'

SILVESTER DANVERS was the only son of Thomas Danvers and Margaret Courtenay, and was born in the year 1518. His grandmother, Dame Anne, outlived her eldest son, and Silvester became her heir when she died, in the year 1539, succeeding her in the Wiltshire and other estates, excepting those which had been specially devised to the uncles, William and John Danvers. In the year 1537 Silvester married Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir John Mordaunt, first Baron Mordaunt of Turvey. By this his first wife Silvester Danvers had three sons, John, Henry, and Anthony, and three daughters, Anne, Ursula, and Elizabeth. They are all mentioned in his will (Powell, 14). Silvester's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of William Rede, of Milton, by whom he had a son, Giles, whose birth he seems to have been expecting when he made his will in July, 1549 (proved in 1552). He is mentioned as the son of Silvester Danvers in Harleian Roll, p. 5, and we find him taking part in the management of the Dauntsey estates. Silvester's post-mortem inquisition is No. 88 of 5 Edward VI., part ii. His heir is his son, John, aged eleven at the time of his father's death. Of John we shall have more to say hereafter, and so also of Henry, from whom sprung the Danvers [family of Baynton. To Anthony, the third son, Silvester left his manor of Winterbourne Dauntsey, and we know that Anthony was alive in 1588, as his name is amongst those who subscribed to the defence fund which originated in the alarm caused by the fitting out of the Spanish Armada. But there is no record in the Lay Subsidy Rolls of his presence at Winterbourne Dauntsey, and he does not seem to have left any children. Of Silvester's daughters, Anne married (1) John Hungerford, of Stoke, near Great Bedwyn, Wilts, and (2) William Knyvett, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, September 17, 1553; Ursula, the second daughter, married Thomas Welbore, of Pondes, in Clavering, Essex, and was buried in Clavering Church; Elizabeth, the third daughter, married John Bands, of Bedford.

---

* 'My daughter, Anne Wykes,' p. 277. May this Anne have been a godchild or granddaughter?

† 'Biblioth. Topograph. Britan.,' vol. vii., p. 152, and Harleian Society's vol. v., p. 192. See also Rev. J. C. Blomfield's 'History of Deanery of Bicester,' Part ii., p. 71.

The life of Silvester Danvers extended through the troubled period of the Reformation, and through the years of disquiet in affairs spiritual and temporal which followed upon it during the reign of Edward VI. The restless activity and meddling disposition of the Protector, Somerset,* and his evident sympathy with the ultra-Protestants, stirred up discontent, and ultimately insurrection in the extreme east and west of the kingdom, in Norfolk and in Cornwall. In the west, on Whit-Monday of the year 1549, the villagers of Sampford Courtenay insisted upon the priest resuming his old dress and saying Mass in Latin, and thence the insurrection spread to Devonshire, and broke out in one of Silvester's manors, that of St. Mary's Clyst, near Exeter. One of the leaders of the insurgents was a distant cousin to the Danvers family, Humphrey Arundell. At St. Mary's Clyst was fought the battle which broke the strength of the insurgents, and then for a time Silvester's tenants and neighbours suffered grievously from the martial law which was inflicted upon the offending counties as a part of their punishment.

---

* Cf. Bright's 'History of England,' vol. ii., p. 431.

It was also Silvester's lot to experience the transference to the Crown of the over-lordship of his manor of Dauntsey from its ancient possessors, the Abbots of Malmesbury. With sad hearts must he and many of his neighbours have witnessed the dismantling of the great Norman church of the abbey, the secularization of the monastic buildings, and the dispersal of the brethren.

Silvester was succeeded in his estates by his eldest son, John Danvers, who was born in the year 1540. John Danvers was a more notable man than his father—notable because of the active part he took in the county during the preparations for the defence of the land from the coming of the Armada; notable because of the great match which he made with Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheiresses of John, last Lord Latimer of the line of Nevill, and notable by reason of the well-known lines which his relative, George Herbert, penned upon the sight of his portrait:

'Passe not by.
Search and you may
Find a treasure
Worth your stay.
What makes a Danvers
Would you find?
In a fayre bodie
A fayre mind.
Sir John Danvers' earthly part
Here is copied out by art;
But his heavenly and divine,
In his progenie doth shine.
Had he only brought them forth,
Know that much had been his worth.
There's no monument to a sonne,
Read him there, and I have done.'

Sir John's three sons also were men of note, though in very different ways. Sir Charles, the eldest, after distinguishing himself in the French wars, was executed on Tower Hill for participation in the treasonous schemes of the Earl of Essex. Sir Henry, the second son, became, as Earl of Danby, a prominent figure in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.; while Sir John, the third son, is known in history as 'the Regicide,' and in the Danvers history as the man who brought disgrace and misfortune upon his branch of the family.

Sir John Danvers, the father, was Sheriff of Wiltshire in the sixteenth and twenty-seventh years of Elizabeth, and in the year 1588 we find him summoning the gentry of the county to make preparations against the Armada; he himself commanded one of the military divisions into which the county was divided. The account of the arming of the county is interesting, but its reproduction would occupy more space than can here be spared, and it may be found in vols. xiv. and xv. of the 'Journal of the Wilts Archæological Society.'

With his wife, Lady Elizabeth Nevill, Sir John Danvers received a rich dower in lands in Yorkshire and elsewhere, including Danby Castle, over the ruined gateway of which his coat-of-arms may still be traced. He died in December, 1594, leaving behind him great possessions. The mere enumeration of his manors occupies a considerable space in the post-mortem inquisition, and these for the most part passed eventually to his second son, Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby. Sir John was buried in Dauntsey Church, but no monument distinguishes his grave. It is likely that when Lord Danby built the north chapel as a burial-place for his family he removed to it his father's remains.

Sir John left three sons, Charles, Henry, and John, and had besides seven daughters, of whom six survived him, and are mentioned in his post-mortem inquisition made in the year 1595 (38 Elizabeth, part ii., No. 100). Two of the daughters were already married when their father died—Anne to Sir Arthur Porter, of Lanteney, Gloucester, and Lucy to Sir Henry Baynton, of Bromham, Wilts. Another daughter, Eleanor, married Sir Thomas Walmesley, of Dunkenhalgh, Lancashire, from whom descend the Duke of Leeds and Lord Petre.* Elizabeth, another daughter, became the second wife of Sir Edward Hoby, of Bisham Abbey, and her arms are displayed in the east window of the south aisle of Bisham Church. Katherine, another daughter, married Sir Richard Gargrave, of Nostel, Yorkshire, and Dorothy married Sir Peter Osborne, of Chicksands, Bedford. Dorothy's youngest daughter, another Dorothy Osborne, is well known as the writer of the letters which bear her name, and as the wife of Sir William Temple. Dorothy Osborne the elder died in the year 1653, aged sixty. Her eldest son, Sir John Osborne, married his cousin, Eleanor, daughter of Charles Danvers of Baynton, who was grandson to Silvester Danvers.

---

* Sir Edward Osborne, of Ashford, Kent, was created a baronet in 1620. His second wife was Anne, widow of William Middleton, of Stockeld, York, and daughter of Thomas Walmsley and his wife, Eleanor Danvers. Their son, Sir Thomas, was created Earl of Danby 26 Charles II., and Duke of Leeds in 1694. *Vide* Collins's 'Peerage,' vol. i., p. 253.

Lady Elizabeth Danvers, after her first husband's death, married Sir Edmund Carey, by whom she had no children. She died in the year 1630, aged 84, and was buried in the church of Stowe, Northamptonshire, under an altar tomb which stands beneath the eastern arch on the south side of the chancel. Baker says the monument may fairly be pronounced, both in point of design and execution, one of the finest pieces of sculpture of the age.* The figure is of white marble, recumbent on a mantle lined with ermine, and fastened round the neck with rich jewels. The attitude is expressive of tranquil sleep, the right hand placed on her breast, the left falling carelessly by her side. The head, enveloped in a loose hood, reposes on a flowered cushion, behind which are two griffins supporting a shield, on which are the arms of Nevill, Beauchamp, and Vere. At the east end of the tomb are the arms of Danvers impaling Nevill, and at the west end Carey impaling Nevill. The Danvers arms, wherever displayed upon the tomb, are the chevron between three mullets, the ancient arms of the family, which Sir John Danvers had resumed.

Sir Charles Danvers, the eldest son of John Danvers and Elizabeth Nevill, was born about the year 1568. He matriculated at Oxford, and was created M.A. June 16, 1589; subsequently he joined the Middle Temple. But before taking the M.A. degree Sir Charles was travelling on the Continent, for we find him as early as 1584 writing to thank Walsingham for having obtained permission for him to travel. He was M.P. for Cirencester 1586-87 and 1588-89. In 1588 he was serving in the army, under Lord Willoughby in the Netherlands, and was knighted by him in the year 1588.* Then followed, in 1594, the implication of Sir Charles in the death of Mr. Henry Long, his flight with his brother Henry to France, and their outlawry, which was terminated by their pardon in August of 1598. The pardon was, however, conditional on the brothers contenting Sir Walter Long, Henry Long's brother, by paying him £1,500. In the year 1596 we find the Earl of Shrewsbury writing from Rouen to Cecil: 'Heare is daily with me Sir Charles and Sir Henry Danvers, two discreet fine gentlemen who carry themselves heare with great discrition, reputacion, and respect.'

---

* Baker's 'Northamptonshire,' vol. i., p. 447.

On June 20, 1598, Sir Charles writes from Paris to Secretary Cecil: 'I am infinitely indebted for your care to finish this long exile. In your industry you seem to have drawn the offices of all other men into your hands. Pray take care that what you have carried through so many storms perish not in the entry of the harbour.'†

In the year 1599 Sir Charles was given a colonel's commission in Essex's army in Ireland, and the intimacy which he there formed with his commander, together with his devotion to the Earl of Southampton—to whom he considered himself indebted for saving his life by the shelter which he afforded him after the Long catastrophe—led to his becoming implicated in the conspiracy of those noblemen in the year 1601.

The conspiracy is matter of history. Sir Charles, in one of his examinations before the Council, stated that he bore no malice to anyone, but was drawn into the affair by affection to the Earl of Southampton, to whom he owed his life. It was clearly proved before the Council, and, indeed, confessed by Sir Charles, that the part assigned to him was to overpower the guard at the door of the presence-chamber in Whitehall Palace, while the Earl of Essex sent others to guard the court and water-gate. The place having been thus secured, Essex,

---

* Metcalfe's 'Book of Knights.' Also 'Dictionary of National Biography'—'Sir Charles Danvers.'

† 'Domestic State Papers,' vol. 1598-1601, June 20.

Southampton, and Rutland were to present themselves to the Queen, and to obtain from her authority to change the Government, and to call a Parliament, which they trusted would condemn their opponents for misgoverning the State.

Finally, Sir Charles was found guilty, and condemned to death. His old friend Cecil, amongst others, grieved for his fate, which, however, he was unable to avert. On February 9 the Earls of Essex, Rutland, and Southampton, and Lord Sandys were brought to the Tower at 3 a.m. by the Lord Admiral and others, and in the afternoon of the same day Lords Cromwell and Monteagle and Sir Charles Danvers by Sir Walter Raleigh and others. On March 18, 1601, between 7 and 8 a.m., Sir Charles Danvers was brought from the Tower to the new scaffold erected for the execution of the Earl of Essex, and was there beheaded, and his body was the same day buried in the Tower Church.

Sir Charles 'bore his death with a most Christian calmness and composure, having first craved God's pardon and the Queen's, to whom he wished all prosperity; as also the Lord Gray, who was there present, to whom he acknowledged he had been ill affected, not from any injury he had suffered from him, but purely on the Earl of Southampton's account, to whom the Lord Gray professed an absolute enmity.'*

Under the attainder, Sir Charles's large property in Wiltshire and elsewhere was forfeited to the Crown, but it was restored to his brother Henry by James I. in July, 1603.

The death of Henry Long† at the hands of Sir Charles and Sir Henry Danvers caused no little sensation at the time, but the attendant circumstances have been very variously told by friends and foes of the family. The story, as given by Aubrey in his 'History of North Wilts,' and as told in vol. i. of the 'Journal of the Wiltshire Archæological Society,' is briefly as follows: Henry Long, the victim, was the younger brother of Sir Walter Long, of a family long seated in the county, neighbours of the Danvers, and from time to time associated with them as members of Parliament, Sheriffs, or Justices of Peace for the county. The narrative states that the nature of the provocation, whether public or private, remains unknown, but the murder was committed on October 4, 1594, at a house in Corsham, where several gentlemen, including Sir Walter Long, were assembled. Sir Henry Danvers, followed by his brother and a number of tenants and retainers, burst into the room, and without more ado shot Henry Long dead upon the spot. The brothers then fled to Whitley Lodge, a secluded place near to Titchfield House, the seat of Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. There they appear to have been sheltered and maintained for a time by the Earl, and with his assistance they escaped across Southampton Water to Cawshot Castle, and thence to France, where they remained till they were pardoned in August, 1598.

---

* Cobbett's 'State Trials,' vol. i., p. 1414.

† See 'Journal of Archæological Society of Wilts,' vol. i., p. 306, and vol. viii., p. 239. Also the copy of Lady Danvers' petition and of a statement by her, which are appended to this chapter.

Very different, however, is the story told by Lady Danvers, the mother of the offenders, in her petition on their account to the Privy Council. The petition is extant, though somewhat mutilated, amongst the Domestic State Papers at the Record Office, and with it is a duplicate, which seems to have been prepared as instruction to counsel—the latter is dated April 15, . . . 5. The heading of the documents runs: 'Grounds of the mislike of Sir Walter Long and Henry Long against Sir John Danvers.' The grounds stated are that, owing to the industry of Sir John, two robberies had been brought home to Sir Walter's servants, and that Sir Walter had been reprehended by the Justices of Assize for his action in the matter, and, further, that he was committed to prison for his conduct towards Sir John Danvers. Another ground of mislike was that, on another occasion, Sir John Danvers, as a Justice of the Peace, had committed four of Sir Walter's servants for a murder of which they were guilty. Because of Sir John's action, Sir Walter and his brother, followed by many insolent servants, provoked an affray in which a servant of the Danvers family was killed, and another dangerously wounded. Sir Walter had also entered the house of one of Sir John's tenants, and had there, unprovoked, thrown a glass of beer in the face of Sir John's principal servant.

Sir Charles Danvers, knowing of Sir Walter's insolent behaviour, questioned him as to his privity to the outrage, and requested satisfaction, which was conceded. But Sir Charles received from Henry Long a very violent letter, in which he gave him the lie in the throat, and called him 'ape, puppie, foole, and boye.'

Then follows Lady Danvers' account* of the affray which resulted in Henry Long's death. Sir Charles being moved by the continued insolence of the Longs, determined to requite publicly so many and great disgraces, and repaired with friends to the ordinary at Corsham, where Henry Long happened to be in company with others, and entering the room struck him with a stick—cudgelled him—and having done so turned to leave the room. But the door being fastened by one of Long's company, Long and his friends fell upon and dangerously wounded Sir Charles. Meanwhile Sir Henry Danvers burst his way into the room, and, seeing his brother bleeding and fainting, discharged his pistol at Henry Long, believing that only by so doing he could save his brother's life.

Then the document goes on to state that since the death of his brother, Sir Walter Long had endeavoured to hinder justice by, though a party in the affair himself, taking down the testimony of undue witnesses, and that he had endeavoured to corrupt others, and further had riotously and outrageously pulled down enclosures upon the Danvers estate.

But here the remainder of the statement in both copies of the petition has been torn away.

Finally, whether because of the interest made for them by the French King, whose service the brothers had entered, and whose notice they had won by their conspicuous bravery, or because inquiry had proved that the account of the affair given by Lady Danvers was correct, the brothers were pardoned in June, 1598, and returned to England the following August.

But the coroner's indictment, on which they were outlawed, was not reversed till the year 1604, and then on a technical ground. In suing for a writ of error the representatives of the brothers endeavoured to upset the indictment on the plea that the Latin was bad, so bad that it was not Latin at all. This plea was rejected, but the fact that the word 'percussit' was omitted in the account of the shooting was accepted as valid ground against the indictment, and accordingly it was quashed.

---

* See appendices to this chapter.

While the above is passing through the press, the *Times* of November 20, in a review of the fourth volume of the Hatfield Papers, has the following allusion to the exile of Sir Charles and Sir Henry Danvers: 'The adventures of Sir Charles and Sir Henry Danvers, and their flight in consequence of a fatal quarrel with Henry Long, form in themselves almost a historical novel; but the details, though fairly plentiful, fail to satisfy one's curiosity. The brothers escaped to France, whence Charles Danvers sought the aid of Sir R. Cecil. To quote the excellent preface to this correspondence: "It was not infrequently the practice at this time, beneath the wax which sealed the missive, to fasten down a number of strands of fine silk. So attached to the letter now referred to, securely held in the waxen seal, is a skein, composed not of silk, but of what, microscopically examined, proves to be human hair. It is of a yellow flaxen colour and of fine texture, and if, as not improbably is the fact, it is a lock cut by himself from his own abundant tresses, here is at once lively evidence of a kind of sentimental appeal to Cecil's heart and a pathetic and remarkable relic of the woful exile, Charles Danvers."'

Sir Henry Danvers,* second son of Sir John Danvers and Lady Elizabeth, was born at Dauntsey, June 28, 1573. He matriculated at Christ Church College, Oxford, in May, 1589. In the year 1591 he was knighted before Rouen by the Earl of Essex. In the year 1594 he took part in the affray which led to the death of Henry Long, and was exiled till August, 1598. During his exile Henry Danvers served with distinction in the French army, and thus prepared himself for the important post which he subsequently held in the English army. Sir Henry served also in the navy, and the Earl of Nottingham called him the best sea-captain in England. In the year 1605 Sir Henry was restored in blood as heir to his father by Act of Parliament, and was settled in the estates which, on his brother's attainder, had been forfeited to the Crown. In July, 1603, he was created Baron Danvers of Dauntsey, and in February, 1625, Earl of Danby.

---

* Canon Jackson's 'Aubrey's Wilts,' pp. 216-227, and 'Dictionary of National Biography;' also vols. for the period of Domestic State Papers.

The Earl was noted for his hospitality and liberality. It is said the expenses of his kitchen at Cornbury amounted to £3,000 yearly, and as examples of his liberality we have his foundation of Botanic Garden at Oxford, and his restoration of Dauntsey Church. Aubrey relates that his installation as Knight of the Garter was the greatest solemnity known in the memory of man. The Earl was a steady loyalist, and had he lived till the Sequestrators began their work would no doubt have been heavily fined; as it was a fine of upwards of £20,000 was imposed on his estate. He died in the year 1643, and was buried under a fine marble monument in the chapel which he had built on the north of the chancel of Dauntsey Church. Let his epitaph suffice for the rest of his history. It runs as follows:

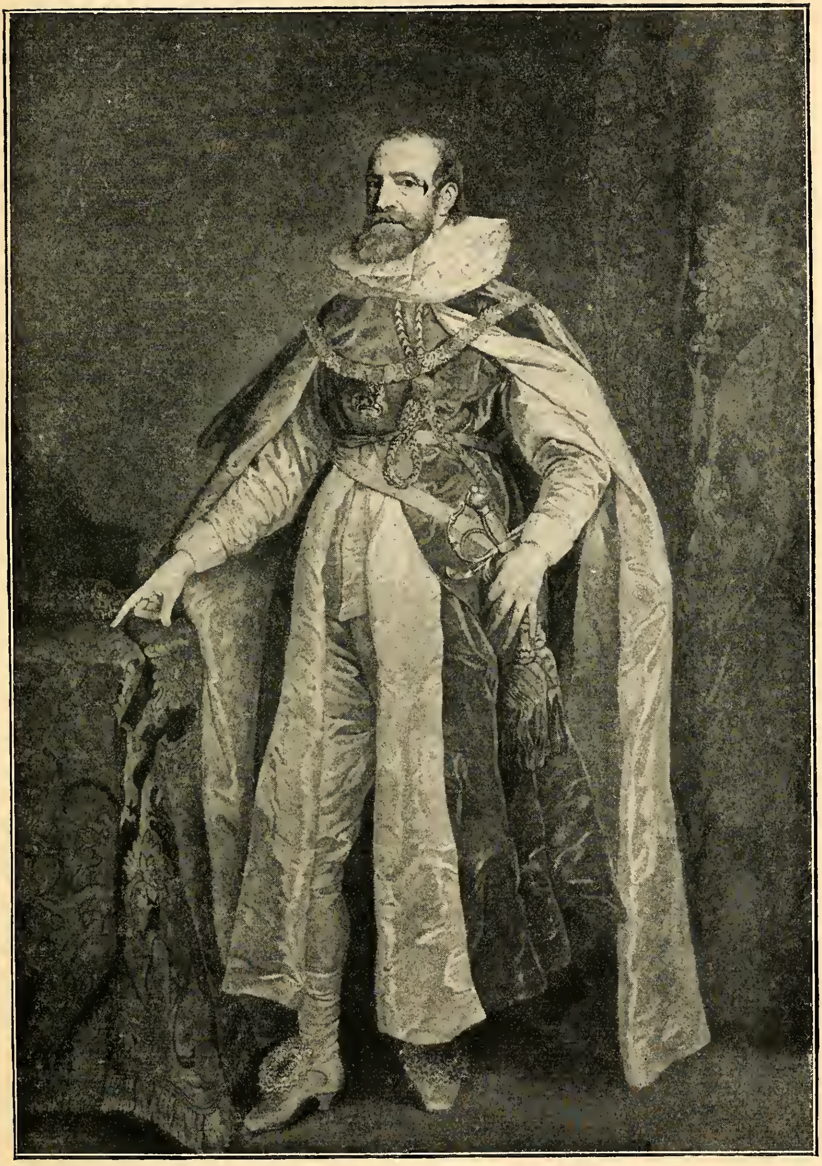
'Henry Earle of Danby 2d soñe to Sir John Danvers Kt and Dame Elizabeth, daughter and co-heyre to Nevil, Ld Latimer, borne at Dauntesey in the countie of Wiltes, the 28th day of June A° Dñi 1573, and baptised in this church the 1st of July following, being Sunday. He departed this life on the 20th day of January A° 1643, and lieth here interred.'

North side:

'He was partly bred up in the Lowe-countrey warres, under Maurice Earle of Nassaw, afterwards Prince of Orange, and in many other military actions of those times, both by sea and land. He was made a Captaine in the warres of Fraunce, and there knighted for his good service under Henry IV., then French King. He was employed as Lieutenant-Generall of the horse and Sergeant-Major of the whole army in Ireland under Robert Earle of Essex and Charles Baron of Mountjoy, in the reigne of Queen Elizabeth.'

South side:

'He was made Baron of Dauntesey, and Peer of this Realme by King James the First; and by him made Lord President of Munster, and Governor of Guernsey. By King Charles the First he was created Earl of Danby, made of his privy councell, and Knight of the most noble order of the Garter. But declining more active employments in his later time, by reason of his imperfect health. Full of honour, woundes, and daies, he died at his howse in Cornbury-parke, in the county of Oxford, in the yeare 71 of his age. Laus Deo.'



SIR HENRY DANVERS, K.G., EARL OF DANBY,

After an engraving of the Earl's portrait by Van Dyck.

On the east side of the tomb is the following epitaph, composed by George Herbert:

'Sacred marble, safely keep
His dust; who under thee must sleep,
Until the graves again restore
Their dead, and time shall be no more;
Meanwhile, if he (which all things wears)
Does ruin thee, or if thy tears
Are shed for him; dissolve thy frame,
Thou art requited: for his fame,
His virtue, and his worth shall be
Another monument to thee.'

Sir John Danvers,* third son of the elder Sir John and his wife Elizabeth Nevill, was born about the year 1585, and on July 16, 1601, at the age of sixteen, matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford. In March, 1611-12, he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn on the request of Thomas Wentworth, Recorder. He was knighted at Royston on March 3, 1608-9, and shortly after, when about twenty years of age, married Magdalen, daughter of Sir Robert Newport, twelve years the widow of Richard Herbert, of Montgomery Castle, and the mother of ten children, who were living at the time of her second marriage. Of these children, the eldest son was Edward, who succeeded his father in the family estates; another son was Lord Herbert of Cherbury; and another, the best known of all, the saintly George Herbert, poet and divine. Magdalen Herbert was about forty years of age when she married Sir John Danvers, who was captivated as well by the beauty which she still retained as by her wit and accomplishments, and the sweetness and nobility of her character.

The year after his marriage Sir John Danvers entered Parliament as member for Arundel. He was member for Montgomery in the year 1614, for the University of Oxford in the years 1621-22, for Newport in 1624-25, again for the University of Oxford in the years 1625-26, 1628-29, and in the year 1640; in the years 1645-53 he sat in the Long Parliament for Malmesbury.

That Sir John was a well-read man and of scholarly tastes, we learn from the circumstance mentioned by Aubrey that Lord Bacon frequently visited him at Chelsea, and that he submitted to him his 'History of Henry VII.' for criticism before it was printed.

---

* 'Dictionary of National Biography'—'Sir John Danvers'; also, Domestic State Papers of the period, Aubrey's 'Wilts,' and 'Life of George Herbert,' S.P.C.K.

Aubrey says of him that he had a fair body and a mind harmonical, and his complexion so beautiful that during his travels abroad people would come after him in the street to admire him; and, moreover, he had a fine fancy, chiefly for gardens and architecture. His house at Chelsea stood close to the river, near to Old Chelsea Church and to the mansion once inhabited by Sir Thomas Moore. The house, a very sumptuous one, enriched with marbles, was surrounded by fine gardens laid out after the Italian method. Aubrey, in his Letters (edition of 1813), tells us that the chimney-piece of Sir John's chamber was formerly that of the chamber of Sir Thomas More. Here Sir John received the many visitors — nobles, statesmen, divines, philosophers, and wits—whom the fame of his house and the beauty and wit of his noble wife attracted. Here, too, Sir John showed generous hospitality to the children of his wife by her former husband, and more especially to her daughters and to her son George, who, writing from college, acknowledges many favours received from his stepfather. Here, too, in the May of the year 1627, Magdalen Danvers died, and hence she was carried to her burial, not in the splendid tomb which she had provided at Montgomery, but in a grave unmarked, and now unknown, in Old Chelsea Church.

John Danvers was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Charles I., but early in that King's reign he began to put himself in opposition to the Crown, and his house at Chelsea, formerly the rendezvous of loyal gentlemen, became, to the grief of his wife and brother, a very centre of sedition, and a meeting-place for the men who were engaged in plotting against the Church and King. It is said, and this is not unlikely, that Sir John's disloyal tendencies were fostered by a disposition soured by the pecuniary difficulties in which his extravagant expenditure on house and gardens and entertainments had involved him.

The year after his first wife's death Sir John Danvers took, as his second wife, Elizabeth, one of the daughters and

we learn from the circumstance mentioned by Aubrey that Lord Bacon frequently visited him at Chelsea, and that he submitted to him his 'History of Henry VII.' for criticism before it was printed.

Aubrey says of him that he had a fair body and a mind harmonical, and his complexion so beautiful that during his travels abroad people would come after him in the street to admire him; and, moreover, he had a fine fancy, chiefly for gardens and architecture. His house at Chelsea stood close to the river, near to Old Chelsea Church and to the mansion once inhabited by Sir Thomas Moore. The house, a very sumptuous one, enriched with marbles, was surrounded by fine gardens laid out after the Italian method. Aubrey, in his Letters (edition of 1813), tells us that the chimney-piece of Sir John's chamber was formerly that of the chamber of Sir Thomas More. Here Sir John received the many visitors — nobles, statesmen, divines, philosophers, and wits—whom the fame of his house and the beauty and wit of his noble wife attracted. Here, too, Sir John showed generous hospitality to the children of his wife by her former husband, and more especially to her daughters and to her son George, who, writing from college, acknowledges many favours received from his stepfather. Here, too, in the May of the year 1627, Magdalen Danvers died, and hence she was carried to her burial, not in the splendid tomb which she had provided at Montgomery, but in a grave unmarked, and now unknown, in Old Chelsea Church.

John Danvers was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Charles I., but early in that King's reign he began to put himself in opposition to the Crown, and his house at Chelsea, formerly the rendezvous of loyal gentlemen, became, to the grief of his wife and brother, a very centre of sedition, and a meeting-place for the men who were engaged in plotting against the Church and King. It is said, and this is not unlikely, that Sir John's disloyal tendencies were fostered by a disposition soured by the pecuniary difficulties in which his extravagant expenditure on house and gardens and entertainments had involved him.

The year after his first wife's death Sir John Danvers took, as his second wife, Elizabeth, one of the daughters and

DAUNTESEY PEDIGREE.

From Harleian MS. 1443, fol. 36; Parish Register; and Monuments in West Lavington Church.

(For this pedigree we are indebted to the courtesy of Edward Kite, Esq.)

John Dawnse died January 4, 1453. Brass plate formerly in West Lavington Church.

John Dawntesey of West Lavington, in co. Wilts. = Margery.

Elinor, dau. of Walter Mervyn, of Fonthill, co. Wilts, Esq. (1st wife.) = Ambrose Dawntesey of West Lavington, Sheriff of Wilts, 1548 (2 Edward VI.). = Jane, dau. of Roger Gifford, and relict of —— Lamborne. (2nd wife.)

William Dawntesey of London, mercer. Sheriff of London 1531. Died April 22, 1543, *s.p.* Founder of Grammar School and Almshouses at West Lavington. = Agnes.

Katherine, dau. of Anthony Twyneboe of Steeple Ashton, co. Wilts. (1st wife.) = John Dauntesey of West Lavington, died May 19, 1559, aged 44. Monumental brass in West Lavington Church. (Arms: party per pale or and argent, three bars dancetté gules.) = Margaret, dau. of John Ernsley of Allcannings, co. Wilts, died January, 1751. Brass plate in West Lavington Church. (2nd wife.)

Francis Dauntesey of London, mercer.

Joan = William Bower of London.

Ann Dauntesey.

Sir John Dauntesey of West Lavington, Knt., Sheriff of Wilts, 1595 (38 Elizabeth). Buried at West Lavington January 5, 1632. (He bore gules, a lion rampant, argent, chasing a wyvern vert.) His seal with these arms was in the possession of the late Rev. Edward Wilton of West Lavington. = Ann, dau. of Ralph Jeninges of Churchill, co. Somerset. She was buried at West Lavington, 1613.

Jane Dauntesey.

Ambrose Dauntesey, died November 29, 1612, in the lifetime of his father. Brass plate with inscription and two shields with arms of Dauntesey (as on his father's seal), and Sadleir, in Melksham Church, Wilts. = Gertrude, dau. of Henry Sadler of Everley, Wilts (son of Sir Ralph Sadler), and relict of Henry Brouncker of Melksham. Buried at Melksham.

Mary = Sir Thomas Bartlett, Knt.

Ann = William Brouncker of Erlestoke, Wilts.

Elizabeth = Harcourt Leighton of Plaish, co. Salop.

Ambrose Dauntesey, aged 13 in 1623. [Ob. *s.p.*]

Elizabeth, baptized March 20, 1605, dau. and co-heir. Died in April, 1636. Her effigy in white marble, exquisitely carved, in a reclining posture, with the head resting on the right arm, together with a long Latin inscription, in West Lavington Church. (2nd wife.) = Sir John Danvers of Chelsea and West Lavington. 'The Regicide.' Buried at Dauntesey April 28, 1655.

Sarah, dau. and co-heir, baptized December 10, 1610. Married Sir Hugh Stewkeley.

Henry Danvers, only son, died of small-pox November 19, 1654, in his 21st year, leaving all his great estate in his power to his sister Anne. Marble monument, with effigy and inscription, at West Lavington.

Elizabeth Danvers, eldest dau. and co-heir of her brother. Married (1) Robert [Wright] Villiers, who took the name of Danvers by patent—Viscount Purbeck; (2) John Duvall, Esq.

Ann Danvers, second dau. and co-heir. Sole executrix of her brother. Married Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley, co. Oxon.

[*To face p.* 295.

heiresses of Ambrose Dauntsey, Esq.,* with whom he obtained in dower the rich manor of West Lavington; and here, in his new home in Wiltshire, he again gave the reins to his love for extravagance in gardening, planting, and display. By this his second wife Sir John had several children; she died in the year 1636, and was buried at West Lavington. Sir John remained a widower for twelve years, and then, in the year 1648, married his third wife, Grace, daughter of Thomas Hewes, of Kimerton, by whom he had one son, John. Grace survived her husband, and, dying in the year 1670, was buried at Isleworth.

But in the meantime Sir John had thrown in his lot with the rebels, and was returned by Malmesbury as a Parliament-man in the year 1645. In the year 1649 he served as one of the Commissioners appointed to try the King, and of his judges was the only one whose face the King recognised. Sir John took an active part in the trial, and was one of those who signed the death-warrant.

On his brother's death, in the year 1643, Sir John Danvers removed to Dauntsey, and, not content with the large estates which had been left by the Earl to his nephew Henry, Sir John's son, and despite the generous arrangements for the relief of his difficulties which the Earl had made, Sir John began scheming to upset his brother's will on the plea that, owing to his devotion to Parliament, he had lost the estate which ought to have descended to him. Though he did not succeed in ousting his sisters, Lady Gargrave and Lady Osborne, from the estates which the Earl had bequeathed to them, he obtained a grant of that portion of the fine which the Sequestrators imposed upon Lady Gargrave, besides other benefits from the Earl's estate. About the same time, in conjunction with his relative, Baynton, and with the Earl of Pembroke and others, he warmly engaged in the persecution of the Wiltshire gentlemen who had remained loyal to the King.

Finally, despised by his relatives and disowned by Cromwell, he was obliged to fly the country, under suspicion of having plotted against the life of the Protector. Suffered to return to England, he spent his last days at Chelsea, where he died April 16, 1655. Bates, the Royalist historian of the regicides, asserts that in Sir John's latter days he came under the influence of the famous divine, Dr. Fuller, who often preached at Chelsea, and that before his death Fuller brought him to repentance for his political action in the past. His body was removed to Dauntsey, and, as the church register testifies, was buried there April 28; but the exact place of his burial is unknown. On the Restoration, Sir John's name was excepted from the Bill of Indemnity, and his estates were forfeited to the Crown; but were subsequently, in part, restored to his heirs, no doubt because of the loyalty of many members of his family, who, like his brother, the Earl of Danby, suffered heavily on that account.

---

* More correctly one of her grandfather's coheiresses. These Dauntseys of West Lavington appear to have descended from a branch of the family which, as early as the year 1391, held the manor of Winterbourne-Dauntsey.

Sir John's will was made in July, 1654, and was proved by his widow, Grace Danvers, his sole executor, in June, 1655 (Aylett, 264). The will gives no information regarding the estates which had been put in trust; the testator charges his son Henry, to whom he states he had left the larger portion of them, to see that his wishes were carried out. He leaves one moiety of his personal estate to his wife, and the other to their son John. His friends, Bulstrode Whitlock (Chief Justice), Edmund Atkins (Justice of the Common Pleas), the Dean of Christchurch, and others, were nominated overseers of the will.

Sir John Danvers had by his second wife three sons and three daughters. Two of the sons and one daughter died in infancy; the other son, Henry, was alive when his father made his will, yet predeceased him, dying of small-pox at the age of twenty-one on December 12, 1654; and on his birthday was buried, according to his wish, in West Lavington Church, 'at the feet of his dear mother,' Dr. Fuller preaching his funeral-sermon. By his will (Aylett, 188), Henry, so far as he could, left his great estates to his sister Anne.

Anne Danvers married Sir Henry Lee, of Quarendon, Berks, and Ditchley, Oxon.* They had two daughters, one of whom, Eleanor, by her sister's death, became sole heiress to her father, and married James Bertie, Baron Norreys of Rycote, son and heir to Montague Bertie, second Earl of Lindsey, created Earl of Abingdon in 1682. The Countess Eleanor died May 31, 1691, and was buried, first at West Lavington, whence her remains were subsequently removed to be buried with those of her husband in Rycote Church.

---

* Married June 1, 1655, at West Lavington before William Yorke, a magistrate, and subsequently in Ditchley Church.

> 'Scarcely she knew that she was great, or fair,
> Or wise, beyond what other women are;
> Or, which is better, knew, but never durst compare.'*

From the Earl and Countess the present Earl of Abingdon is descended.

Elizabeth, the other daughter of Sir John Danvers, married Robert Wright, or Villiers, who took the name of Danvers, and called himself Viscount Purbeck.†

JOHN DANVERS OF PRESTCOTE, son of Sir John of Chelsea by his third wife, Grace Hewes, was of four sons the only one who survived his father. Born in the year 1651, he matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in the year 1666, and appears to have been entered at Lincoln's Inn the same year. He obtained by petition a portion of his father's estates which had been confiscated, and held office for some years as a Commissioner of Revenue. Accumulating considerable wealth, he was able to indulge a taste which he had inherited for building and gardening. He added greatly to the old manor house at Prestcote, and especially a room, which was apparently built to receive the magnificent oak panelling which he bought out of Warkworth House. His arms and initials appear over the present entrance of the house, above the fireplace of the room just mentioned, and in other places about the house and grounds. John Danvers married Elizabeth Morewood, widow of Samuel Danvers, Esq., of Swithlands, and at his death left his estates to her sons, the Danvers of Swithlands by her first husband.

He died in July, 1721, and, according to directions given in his will, was buried in the Prestcote (south) aisle of Cropredy Church, while a monument to his memory was placed on the neighbouring wall. The gravestone remains *in situ*, but the monument has been removed to the north wall of the church. The epitaph sets forth his age, lineage, and marriage, and states that he served with honour and integrity in the reigns of King William, Queen Anne, and King George.

---

* See Dryden's poem dedicated to her memory.

† See Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. ii., p. 423.

John Danvers' will (Buckingham, 145) was made in October, 1720, and proved in August of the following year. The will is interesting in its mention of various members of the family, and also as an example of a futile endeavour to keep landed property in the testator's family. Evidently John Danvers was proud of his name and lineage, for he caused the latter to be inscribed upon his monument, and placed the family arms prominently in various places in his mansion. Moreover, he endeavoured by his will to keep the ancestral estate of Prestcote in the Danvers family.

He leaves his manors of Prestcote and Chilton in Oxon, and of Basmey in Beds, with his lands in Prestcote, Cropredy, Basmey, Appleby, and elsewhere, to Joseph Danvers of Swithlands, his wife's son by her first husband; and, failing his heirs male, to John, his brother, and his heirs male; and failing them, to Charles Danvers, woollen draper (his second cousin), eldest son of Charles Danvers, late Recorder of Devizes; and in default of his heirs male, to Charles Danvers' right heirs.*

With the lordship of Prestcote, as heirlooms in the family, were to pass two pictures in water-colours by Hoskyns of his father and mother, the picture of his uncle, Earl of Danby, in his Garter robes, the pictures of his father and his second wife, and of his grandmother, daughter of Lord Latimer. Other pictures, plate, and personal property were to be sold, and with the proceeds were to be bought land which he entailed with his manors.

Amongst numerous other legacies were those to the two eldest sons of Mr. Charles Danvers, woollen draper, and to John, brother of Charles. He leaves £1,000 to his nephew, George Villiers, of Christ Church, Oxford, and in case of his death before a certain time, to Charles Danvers, or, failing him, to his children, and to Charles' brothers and sisters.

---

* See pedigree of Danvers of Baynton.

Other legacies were to his cousin, Mrs. Mary Hewes; to his niece, Dame Frances Dereham, widow of Sir Richard Dereham, and if she be dead, to her sons, Thomas and Richard; to his late wife's two daughters, Anne and Eleanor; to Elizabeth, granddaughter of Sir William Temple, now wife of John Temple; to Dorothy, another of Sir William's granddaughters, wife of Nicholas Baron; to his godson, Robert, son of Sir John Osborn, of Chicksands, and to Sir Danvers Osborn; to Mrs. Philadelphia Dyke, sister of Sir Thomas Dyke; and to Mr. Stannier, Vicar of Cropredy. And he also leaves a legacy to Christ's Hospital.

Joseph Danvers of Swithlands left a son, Sir John Danvers, of Swithlands, who died in 1796, leaving no male heir, and his uncle, John Danvers, brother of Joseph, died childless. Doubtless it was John of Prestcote's intention that, under the circumstances, his landed property should now pass to the heirs male of Charles of Baynton, but it is doubtful if any such heirs were alive in 1796. In all probability the Charles Danvers of Kensington and his son Henry, the former of whom died in 1757, and the latter probably in 1771, were the last male descendants of Sir John Danvers and Lady Elizabeth Nevill. As to the 'right heirs male' of Charles Danvers, they would be found amongst the Culworth Danvers, descended from William Danvers of Culworth, son of John Danvers and Ann Stradling. But the male line of the elder branch of the Culworth family ended with the death of Sir Michael of Culworth in the year 1775, after which event the right heirs male of John of Prestcote were the descendants of Daniel Danvers, brother to Samuel Danvers of Culworth, and grandson of William of Culworth and Elizabeth Fiennes. It need hardly be added that they, however, had no legal claim to the estates of John of Prestcote.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER VIII.

London. Coram Rege Roll, Hilary, 2 Ric. III., No. 7, m. 66.

Richard Pole late of Isylworth in co. Midd. Esq. was attached to answer to Henry Danvers of plea why with force & arms he took away Edward Stradlyng kinsman & heir of Edmund Stradlyng being under age, whose marriage belonged to the said Henry, living at London, against the will of the said Henry & against the peace of the King. Thereupon the said Henry by James Starky his attorney complains that whereas Richard de Dauntesey Knt. was seised in his demesne as of fee of 1 mill, 20 a. of land, 3 a. of meadow, 3 a. of pasture & 20 a. of wood with appurts. in Dauntesey in co. Wilts & held the same of William late Abbot of Malmesbury by knights service, to wit, homage & fealty, & to the scutage of the King 40d when there shall happen 40s., of which services the said Abbot was seised in right of his said house by the hands of the said Richard de Dauntesey. The said Richard so seised enfeoffed Hugh Gernen & Henry Baylemeund, to hold to them & their heirs for ever. They, being so seised, gave the said premises to Richard Dauntesey son of the said Ric. Dauntesey Knt & Katherine his wife, & to the heirs of the said Richard & Katherine; for default of such issue, the premises to remain to the right heirs of the said Ric. Dauntesey Knt. By virtue whereof the said Ric. & Katherine were seised of the premises in their demesne as of fee-tail, & they had issue John. After their death the premises descended to the said John as their heir. John had issue John & died, after whose death the premises descended to the said John son of John. The said John had issue Walter to whom the premises descended. The said Walter died without heirs, after whose death the said premises descended to Joan his sister. Joan had issue Edmund to whom the premises descended & who entered into the same & was thereof seised as of fee-tail & had issue John who had issue Edward. Afterwards the said John father of the said Edward died, and the said late Abbot died, after whose death John late Abbot of Malmesbury was chosen Abbot there. The said Edmund being so seised of the premises one William Davy entered upon his possession thereof & disseised him. The said William had issue Thomas to whom the premises descended. The said Thomas entered into the said premises & was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee, and so seised he enfeoffed thereof Richard Fowler, Esq., Thomas Boteler, Esq., Richard Chambarleyn, Esq., Richard Danvers, Esq., John Langston, Esq., Thomas Rokes, Esq., Thomas Fowler, Esq., Drugo Brudenell, Esq., Thomas Tremayll, Thomas Lovedon, Richard Boteler & Thomas Fayrewell: to hold to them, their heirs & assigns for ever. Afterwards the said Edmund died, the said Edward being under age, to whom as kinsman & heir of the said Edmund the premises descended. On the 1st January, 14 Edw. 4 [1475] there proceeded out of the Court of Chancery a certain writ of formedon in descender (de forma donationis in descendēr) against the said Ric. Fowler & the others above mentioned, directed to the Sheriff of Wilts, wherein it is supposed that the said Ric. Fowler & the other have unjustly deprived the said Edward of 1 mill, 20 a. of land, 3 a. of meadow, 3 a. of pasture & 20 a. of wood in Dauntesey. The said writ was returned to Westminster within 15 days of Hilary, & the said Edward by Thomas Gurney his guardian demands the said premises. The said Ric. Fowler, &c. &c. cannot deny the action of the said Edward Stradlyng, nor that the said Hugh Gernon & Henry Baylemond gave the premises to the said Richard Dauntesey & Katherine & to their heirs, nor that the said premises were the right of the said Edward. It is therefore considered that the said Edward shall recover seisin of the premises against the said Ric. Fowler, &c. &c., & a writ was sent to the Sheriff of Wilts commanding him to cause the said Edward to have his seisin which was accordingly done, the said Edward being still under age. The said Henry declared that the custody of the said Edward belonged to the said John late Abbott until the 26th February, 14 Edw. 4, when the said Abbot gave the custody & marriage of the said Edward to the said Richard Fowler, to hold until his coming of age. So seised, the said Ric. Fowler made his Will in London in the parish of St. Lawrence in Old Jewry in the Ward of Cheap, & appointed Joan his wife to be his executrix who by virtue thereof became possessed of the wardship of the said Edward & remained so until the 6th Sept., 21 Edw. 4 [1481] when she gave to the said Henry the said wardship & marriage, to hold until the said Edward should be of full age. By virtue whereof he held the same until the 27th day of June, 1 Ric. 3 [1483] upon which day the said Richard seised & carried away the said Edward, whereby he (Henry) has sustained damage to the amount of £1000.

The said Ric. Pole says that Henry Danvers ought not to maintain his action because the said Edmund Stradlyng was seised of the manor of Merden in co. Wilts in his demesne as of fee which he held of Thomas Langford by fealty & the yearly rent of 1 rose. After the death of the said Edmund the said manor descended to the said Edward as his kinsman & heir, to wit, son of John, son of Edmund, then being a minor, by virtue whereof Alice Stradlyng his mother took him into her custody, and she then married the said Richard Pole by pretext whereof they were possessed of the custody of the body of the said Edward until the said Henry Danvers took him away. Afterwards the said Richard in right of his said wife took the said Edward out of the possession of the said Henry Danvers as it was lawful for him to do.

[*The case is not finished.*]

STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC, ELIZABETH, VOL. 219, NO. 78.

A true declaracon of the ground of the conceaved mislike of Sir Walter Longe, Knighte, & Henry Longe gent his Brother, ageinste Sir John Danvers, Knighte, his Sonnes, & ffollowers.

ffirste, ffor that the said Henry Longe, & one Nicholas Reade Sir Walter Longes Servant, having committed a Robberie vppon Complainte made, weare discovered by the Industrie of the said Sir John Danvers.

Secondly, ffor that a second Robberie was discovered by the said Sir John Danvers, to be Committed by one Mathewes a Servaunte in Sir Walter Longes howsse.

Thirdly, ffor that the said Sir Walter Longe was by the Justice of Assizes sharpelie reprehended for vndue proceeding in matter Concearning the said Robberie, vppon Examinacon taken by the said Sir John Danvers.

ffourthly, ffor that the said Sir Walter Longe was by the order of the honourable Lords committed to the ffleete, for his vndue corse ageinst the said Sir John Danvers, for his due proceeding in hir Majesties service.

ffiftely, ffor that the said Sir John Danvers As a Justice of the Peace committed iiij^{or} of the Servauntes of the said Sir Walter Longes, for a Murther by them latelie committed.

The Abuses offered by Sir Walter Longe & his Brethren, ageinste Sir John Danvers, his Sonnes, & Servauntes, in regard of ye premisses.

ffirste the said Sir Walter Longe his Brothers & ffollowers by manie Insolent behaviours & termes provoked & moved quarrell ageinste the said Sir John Danvers.

Secondly the same not sorting to theire desired effecte, a Servaunte of the said Sir John Danvers was murthered by Servauntes of the said Sir Walter Longes, & one other Servaunte verie daungerouslie wounded.

Thirdly, no occasion of brall being thereby taken, the said Sir Walter Longes brother to give further occasion of quarrell, being gardyd with manie of Sir Walter Longes Servauntes, in verie disordered manner entred the howse of a Tenaunte of the said Sir John Danvers, and in Insolent manner (without anie culler of occasion) A glasse of Beere was throwne in the face of the principall officer of the said Sir John Danvers: Saying in derision They had nowe doubbed him a Knighte allsoe.

ffourthly Sir Charles [*sic*] Danvers (finding theis Insolent behaviours offered) by gentlemanlike letters (without anie termes of offence) desired to be satisfied by Sir Walter Longe, whether the same weare done by his privitie, whereof vppon mutuall Letters passing betweene them, he remayned satisfied.

Whiche being to the said Henry Longe knowen, and finding the same sorted not to suche publique offence as he desired, and purposing to move quarrell by what meanes soever he cared not, thereby to effecte his mallice conceaved (without anie shadowe of Cause) wrote his Letters of defyaunce to the said Sir Charles Danvers, giving therein (besides manie rude termes) manie tymes the lye in the throate, for no matter. Concearning himself, and sondry times sending him word That wheresoever he mett him, he would vntye his pointes, and whippe him with a Rodd: Calling him Asse, Puppie ffoole & Boye.

The manner of the Affray & deathe of the said Henry Longe.

The said Sir Charles Danvers being moved by the Continuall extremitie & Insolencie of the said Cawses, determyning with some small disgrace to requite so manie & greate disgraces as before offered, repaired with others to the place of the said Henry Longes aboade, being an Ordinary, where giving the said Longe ij blowes with a Cudgell (without offring anie other weapon or violence) and being therewith satisfied, offered to departe the

Chamber, but the doore being fastened by one of Longes Companie and himself pursued by the said Longe, & by him daungerously wounded in vij severall places, & therewith faynting, Sir Henry Danvers his Brother then (& not before) comming into the said Chamber, & finding his Brother bleeding & fayntinge, to prevent his deathe dischardged his Pistoll, without which the said Sir Charles had byn then slaine.

The Indirect proceeding of the said Sir Walter Longe since the deathe of the said Henry Longe.

ffirste to prevent all due & indifferent Corse of proceeding for th' examinacon of the premises, he by himself, his vncle & Brothers in lawe (without any others) hathe taken vppon them (being in nature parties to the Cawse) to examyne & sett downe the testymonie of divers very parciall & vndue wittnesses.

Secondly he hathe by one Thomas Tromplin & Edmond Powell his Instrumentes practised to Corrupte wittnesses, to accuse your humble Peticioner with matter of felony, tending to the endaungering of hir liffe & estate, by rewardes given & promised.

Thirdly he hathe incyted dyvers Riotous persons (in moste Contemptuous & outragious manner) to pretend tytle & to pull downe divers Incl[osure]s many yeeres contynewed in & vppon the grounds of the said Sir John Danvers (himself pretendinge no tythe therein).

[Endorsed] La: Danvers.

[This endorsement is crossed through in the original.]

State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth, Vol. 261, No. 81.

That Sir John Danvers greatlye indevored to save the saide Trumplyn his lief vpon his killinge of one Pontinge.

That the saide Trumplyn was by the only meanes of the saide Sir John Danvers greatly advaunced in Marriage in Landes Chattles and other substance to the valewe of xvij^{c} li.

That the saide Trumplyn served the saide Sir John aboute twentye yeares together at Michaelmas laste paste and for the moste parte of that tyme was Sir John Danvers keeper of Daintesie Parke and his woodward yearly worthe to him xli li.

That the saide Sir John Danvers at Michaelmas laste for manye greate and vrgente Causes did dismisse the saide Trumplyn of his service viz.

ffor killinge stealinge and Conveyinge awaye of his deare without the privitye of the saide Sir John.

ffor procuringe John Powell father of Edmonde Powell John Foxe and divers others since he wente from the Parke to steale deare therhence.

And that the saide Trumplyn did harbor and habett in his owne howse as well the outragious persons that offered the violence and disgrace vppon the saide Sir Johns officer As also is a principall procurar and mainteynar of very manye other disorders and vnlawfull actions with the Townshippe of Christe Malforde where he is Comorante as a freehoulder.

And that the said Trumplyn is otherwise a man of a very badd and loose behaviour, and that he and his servantes have of longe tyme byn suspected for stealers of beastes horsse Sheepe suckinge pigges Turkeyes and poultrie.

That he by his earneste laboringe this practise of Corrupte suborninge againste the La. Danvers, Commynge vpp to Powell into Bread streate in London the laste Candlemas tearme did diswade Powell from his dutye towardes his Mistress in the presence of one Thomas Shewell.

That he Chiefly hathe labored and Entised Edmund Powell nowe prisoner oute of the La. Danvers service and by his meanes did place him in the service of Sir Walter Longe and hathe byn with him divers tymes since at Sir Walter Longes.

That he Chiefly hathe plotted by Corruption with the saide Powell and Walsoe being bothe her servantes that by some meanes or other they shoulde Contrive for to accuse the La. Danvers their Mistress of fellonye to the indaungering of her lief and Estate by rewardes given and promised ever affirminge that what anye man dothe testifie for the Queene yt muste be taken for good for that non shoulde gainsaye yt and in all these proceedinges the saide Trumplyn dothe warrante them to be defended by Sir Walter Longe thoughe yt shall Coste him all his lande.

That he began the onsett to Cutt vpp and pull downe and incouraged divers others of his like yll inclination and behaviour to doe the like vpon sundrye inclosures of the La. Danvers of verye manye yeares continuance himself havinge noe Intereste in the saide inclosures takinge vpon him the name of their Captayne in that Action.

That he was of late a Chiefe dealer with one of the Coroners of that Sheire aboute the smotheringe vpp of the killinge of one Elysander by Sir Walter Longes men vpon a servante of Sir John Danvers.

[Endorsed] Concerning the La. Danvers cause with Sir Wa. Long.*

---

* See also letter of John Calley to Sir R. Cecil in Part V., Hatfield MSS.

CHAPTER IX.

A.D. 1500—1544.

William Danvers, the third son of John Danvers of Dauntsey, and his wife, Anne Stradling, was born about the year 1495, and probably at Culworth, where we have some reason to believe his father was at the time living.

William was the first of the family who was emphatically 'of Culworth'; for though the manor belonged to his grandfather, Richard, and to his uncle, Richard, they were 'of Prestcote,' and his father is always known to the genealogists as 'John of Dauntsey.' But William's home was at Culworth; to Culworth he carried his bride, Elizabeth Fiennes; there his children were born, and there his descendants remained for many generations.

Baker, in his 'History of Northampton,' states that William Danvers was married in the year 1522, and though he does not give authority for his statement, the date is a probable one; for William's son and heir, John, was born in 1524-25, and authentic evidence exists that two or three years previously William was thinking—or his family were thinking for him—of getting a wife. Aske, who made his pedigree of the Danvers family in the year 1520, mentions that William Danvers was not then married; but in the same year, in the Close Roll of 10 Henry VIII. (No. 23 in margin), may be found an indenture between Dame Anne Danvers, late wife of Sir John Danvers, and William Danvers, one of their sons, on the one part, and Thomas Danvers, son and heir of Sir John and Dame Anne, on the other. The indenture refers to the deed appended to the will of Sir John, by which he makes Sir

CHAPTER IX.

A.D. 1500—1544.

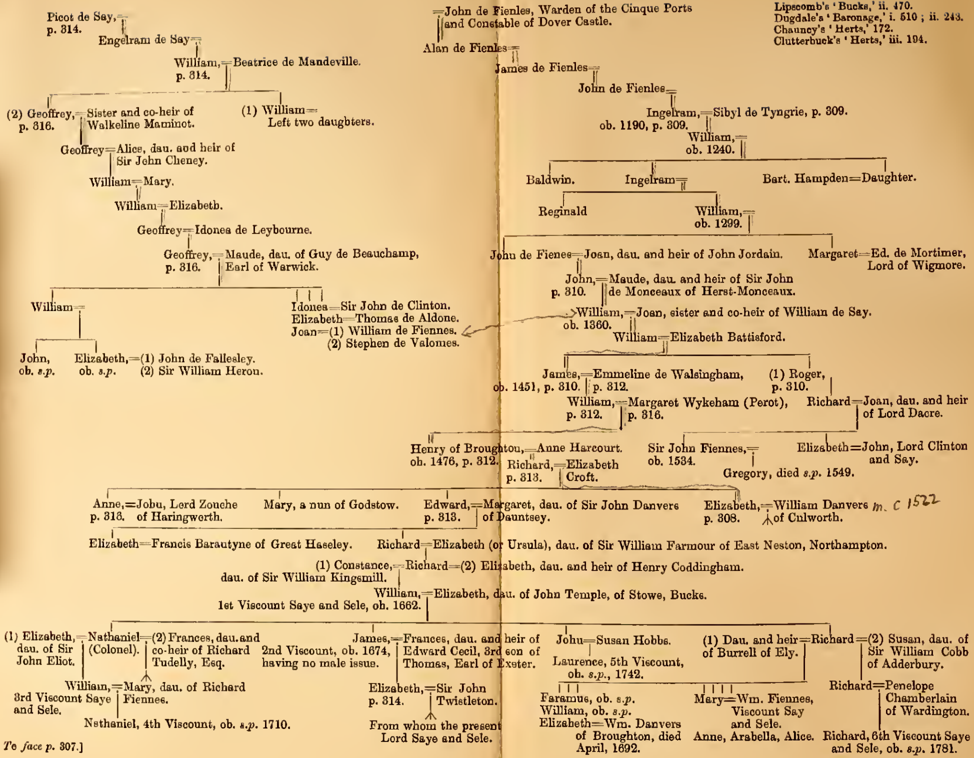
William Danvers, the third son of John Danvers of Dauntsey, and his wife, Anne Stradling, was born about the year 1495, and probably at Culworth, where we have some reason to believe his father was at the time living.

William was the first of the family who was emphatically 'of Culworth'; for though the manor belonged to his grandfather, Richard, and to his uncle, Richard, they were 'of Prestcote,' and his father is always known to the genealogists as 'John of Dauntsey.' But William's home was at Culworth; to Culworth he carried his bride, Elizabeth Fiennes; there his children were born, and there his descendants remained for many generations.

Baker, in his 'History of Northampton,' states that William Danvers was married in the year 1522, and though he does not give authority for his statement, the date is a probable one; for William's son and heir, John, was born in 1524-25, and authentic evidence exists that two or three years previously William was thinking—or his family were thinking for him—of getting a wife. Aske, who made his pedigree of the Danvers family in the year 1520, mentions that William Danvers was not then married; but in the same year, in the Close Roll of 10 Henry VIII. (No. 23 in margin), may be found an indenture between Dame Anne Danvers, late wife of Sir John Danvers, and William Danvers, one of their sons, on the one part, and Thomas Danvers, son and heir of Sir John and Dame Anne, on the other. The indenture refers to the deed appended to the will of Sir John, by which he makes Sir

FIENNES, SAYE, AND DANVERS.

Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' ii. 470.
Dugdale's 'Baronage,' i. 510 ; ii. 243.
Chauncy's 'Herts,' 172.
Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' iii. 194.


Picot de Say, = p. 314.
Engelram de Say =
William, = Beatrice de Mandeville. p. 314.
(2) Geoffrey, = Sister and co-heir of Walkeline Maminot. p. 316.
(1) William = Left two daughters.
Geoffrey = Alice, dau. and heir of Sir John Cheney.
William = Mary.
William = Elizabeth.
Geoffrey = Idonea de Leybourne.
Geoffrey, = Maude, dau. of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. p. 316.
William =
John, ob. s.p.
Elizabeth, = (1) John de Fallesley. (2) Sir William Heron. ob. s.p.
Idonea = Sir John de Clinton.
Elizabeth = Thomas de Aldone.
Joan = (1) William de Fiennes. (2) Stephen de Valomes.
= John de Fienles, Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle.
Alan de Fienles =
James de Fienles =
John de Fienles =
Ingelram, = Sibyl de Tyngrie, p. 309. ob. 1190, p. 309.
William, = ob. 1240.
Baldwin.
Ingelram =
Bart. Hampden = Daughter.
Reginald
William, = ob. 1299.
John de Fienes = Joan, dau. and heir of John Jordain.
Margaret = Ed. de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore.
John, = Maude, dau. and heir of Sir John de Monceaux of Herst-Monceaux. p. 310.
William, = Joan, sister and co-heir of William de Say. ob. 1360.
William = Elizabeth Battisford.
James, = Emmeline de Walsingham, p. 312. ob. 1451, p. 310.
(1) Roger, p. 310.
William, = Margaret Wykeham (Perot), p. 316. p. 312.
Richard = Joan, dau. and heir of Lord Dacre.
Henry of Broughton, = Anne Harcourt. ob. 1476, p. 312.
Richard, = Elizabeth Croft. p. 313.
Sir John Fiennes, = ob. 1534.
Gregory, died s.p. 1549.
Elizabeth = John, Lord Clinton and Say.
Anne, = John, Lord Zouche of Haringworth. p. 313.
Mary, a nun of Godstow.
Edward, = Margaret, dau. of Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey. p. 313.
Elizabeth, = William Danvers of Culworth. p. 308.
m. c 1522
Elizabeth = Francis Barantyne of Great Haseley.
Richard = Elizabeth (or Ursula), dau. of Sir William Farmour of East Neston, Northampton.
(1) Constance, = Richard = (2) Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Henry Coddingham.
dau. of Sir William Kingsmill.
William, = Elizabeth, dau. of John Temple, of Stowe, Bucks. 1st Viscount Saye and Sele, ob. 1662.
(1) Elizabeth, = Nathaniel = (2) Frances, dau. and co-heir of Richard Tudelly, Esq.
dau. of Sir John Eliot. (Colonel).
James, = Frances, dau. and heir of Edward Cecil, 3rd son of Thomas, Earl of Exeter.
2nd Viscount, ob. 1674, having no male issue.
John = Susan Hobbs.
Laurence, 5th Viscount, ob. s.p., 1742.
(1) Dau. and heir = Richard = (2) Susan, dau. of Sir William Cobb of Adderbury.
of Burrell of Ely.
William, = Mary, dau. of Richard Fiennes. 3rd Viscount Saye and Sele.
Nathaniel, 4th Viscount, ob. s.p. 1710.
Elizabeth, = Sir John Twistleton. p. 314.
From whom the present Lord Saye and Sele.
Faramus, ob. s.p.
William, ob. s.p.
Elizabeth = Wm. Danvers of Broughton, died April, 1692.
Mary = Wm. Fiennes, Viscount Say and Sele.
Anne, Arabella, Alice.
Richard = Penelope Chamberlain of Wardington.
Richard, 6th Viscount Saye and Sele, ob. s.p. 1781.

To face p. 307.]

Richard Fowler, Sir Thomas Englefield, and others trustees of his Culworth Mandeville, Culworth Pynkeney, and Sulgrave manors, with their appurtenances—viz., fifty messuages, twelve cottages, fourteen tofts, five hundred acres of arable land, five hundred acres of meadow, five hundred acres of pasture, fifty acres of wood, and a water mill, which manors and lands were to pass to his second son, Richard, and failing him or his heirs male, to the use of Dame Anne for her life. After her death, to William, his third son, and after his death, should he die without male issue, to the right heirs of Sir John. And now Thomas, the eldest son of Sir John, for the sum of money which he had of Dame Anne, and also because of her request, and 'for that she should be the better mother to him, and because of the singular good mind which he had to his younger brother William, and for his advancement towards marriage, and for the advancement of the blood of the said William,' agrees that the trustees shall grant to Dame Anne for her life, and after her decease to the use of her son William, and of such wife, or of any wives, whom he shall hereafter marry, and to his heirs male.*

---

* Additional Charter (Culworth Series), No. 38879, dated May 17, 1526, is an indenture arranging for the use of the manors of Culworth and that of Sulgrave Pinkney by Ann Danvers, widow of Sir John Danvers, Knt., for her life, and after her death for that of her son William and his wife Elizabeth and their children. Charter 38881, dated November 23, 1536, gives the reversion of the above manors and of that of Smythcote, Wilts, to William Danvers, but with the provision that if Sylvester Danvers makes over the Culworth and Sulgrave manors to William Danvers, the manor of Smythcote is to pass to him. Charter 38882 of the year 1542 is an indenture made between Sylvester Danvers and William Danvers on the one part, and Thomas Nevell, of Holt upon the Hill, Leicester, and Edward Griffyn of Dyngley, Northampton, on the other, and provides for the entail of the manors to the heirs of the body of William Danvers. Charter 38883 bears the Great Seal, and is dated at Westminster, February 12, 1542, and confirms to William Danvers the manors which had been made over to him by Thomas Nevell and Edward Griffyn, viz., the two manors of Culworth and that of Sulgrave Pinkney. We have in our possession a deed which provides for the entail of the manors of Culworth Mandeville, Culworth Pynkney, and Sulgrave Pynkney. The deed is dated January 1 of 34 Henry VIII., and is between Sylvester Danvers, of Dauntsy, Esq^{re}., and William Danvers, of Culworth, on the one part, and Thomas Nevell, of Holt upon the Hill, Leicester, Esquire, and Edward Gryffyn, of Dyngley, North^{ton}, Esq^{re}., on the other. The deed is signed by

The deed is interesting, not only as the charter which established William and his descendants in Culworth, but because it gives us the extent of the Culworth estate, which was that of a country squire of good position. William added to the estate, for in Fine No. 148 of 35 Henry VIII. we find him buying of Robert Lovell of Culworth two messuages, thirty acres of arable land, twenty acres of pasture, and two acres of wood. Moreover, his careful and loving mother stocked the home farm liberally for him, as we learn from her will, in which she gives him all the debts owing to her for sheep and other stuff at Prestcote, and £20 for his son Thomas to find him an exhibition to school, and twelve score of wethers out of her stock at Culworth. To him also she leaves the farm called Fulweke, beside Chippenam, which she had purchased of the late Abbot of Malmesbury, and gives him certain years yet to come in the parsonage of Culworth on condition that he finds corn sufficient for such as shall come into those parts for the performance of her last will.

Therefore we may conclude it was about the year 1522 that William Danvers wedded Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton Castle. But how came the Fiennes to be settled at Broughton, far away from their ancestral home at Herstmonceaux in Sussex? and whence did they get their new title? and why, if Barons Saye and Sele, is Elizabeth Danvers' father-in-law called simply 'Richard Fiennes'? Now, in order to explain all this, we will for a time leave William Danvers and his bride and Culworth, and briefly trace the history of the Fiennes family.

The Fiennes or Fienles family were of baronial rank, and came from Fiennes, a place not far from Calais. Eustace, Baron of Fiennes, about the year 1020 married Adila, lady of Ardres, daughter of Everard de Furnés, and had by her a son, Conon de Fiennes, who founded Beaulieu Abbey, Boulogne, and had issue Conon, the father of Eustace, ancestor of the Barons

---

Sylvester Danvers and William Danvers. The seal of the former appears to bear a coat-of-arms, but the details are illegible; that of the latter is a device. On the back of the deed, in the handwriting of the period, is written 'The Intayle of Culworth.' A copy of this deed forms one of our illustrations.

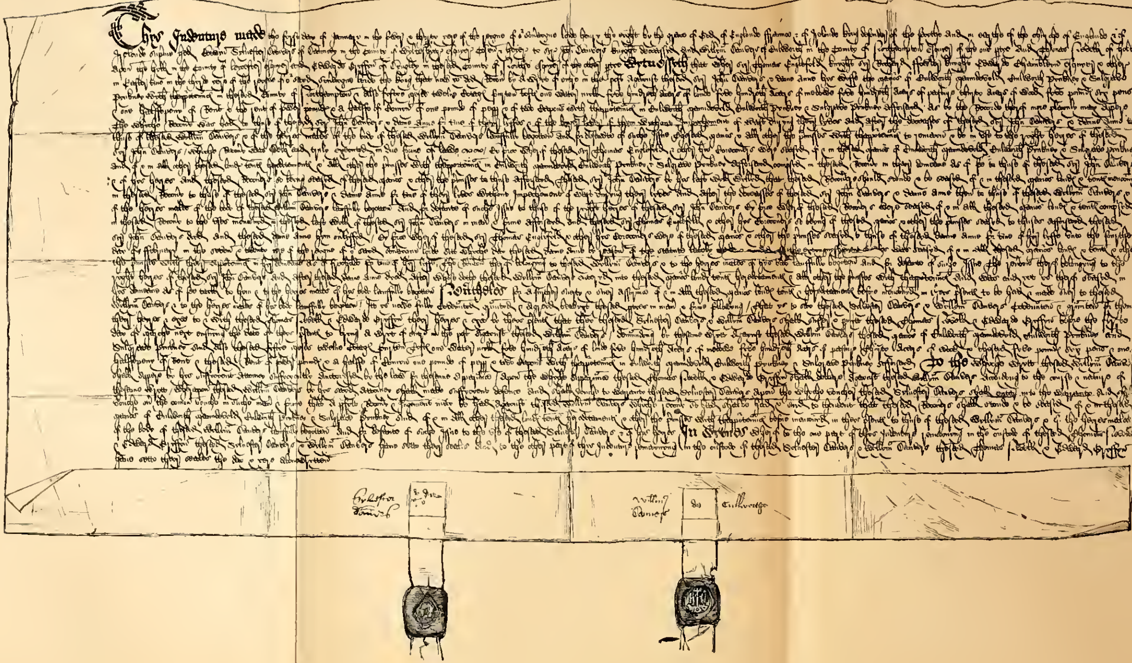
The deed is interesting, not only as the charter which established William and his descendants in Culworth, but because it gives us the extent of the Culworth estate, which was that of a country squire of good position. William added to the estate, for in Fine No. 148 of 35 Henry VIII. we find him buying of Robert Lovell of Culworth two messuages, thirty acres of arable land, twenty acres of pasture, and two acres of wood. Moreover, his careful and loving mother stocked the home farm liberally for him, as we learn from her will, in which she gives him all the debts owing to her for sheep and other stuff at Prestcote, and £20 for his son Thomas to find him an exhibition to school, and twelve score of wethers out of her stock at Culworth. To him also she leaves the farm called Fulweke, beside Chippenam, which she had purchased of the late Abbot of Malmesbury, and gives him certain years yet to come in the parsonage of Culworth on condition that he finds corn sufficient for such as shall come into those parts for the performance of her last will.

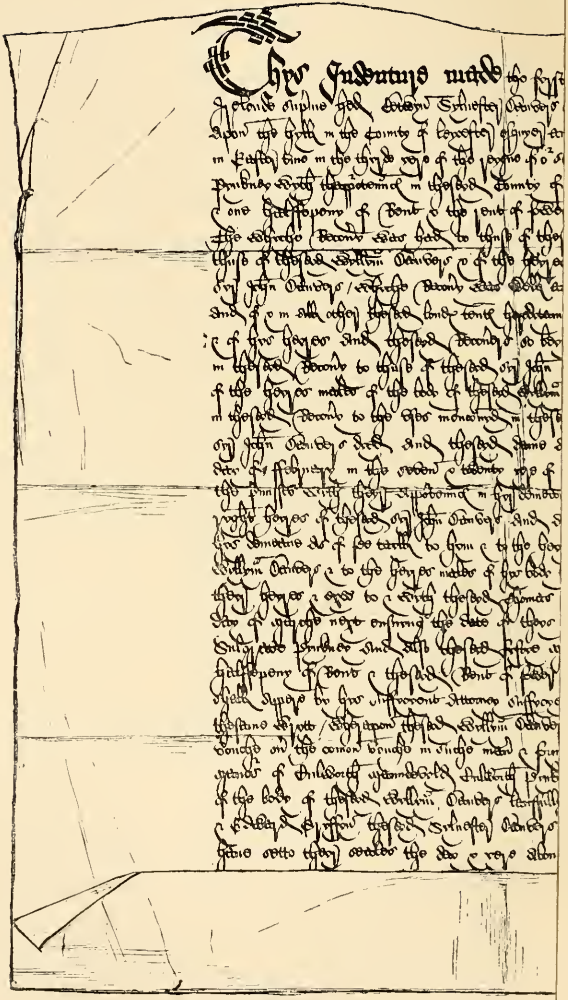
Therefore we may conclude it was about the year 1522 that William Danvers wedded Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton Castle. But how came the Fiennes to be settled at Broughton, far away from their ancestral home at Herstmonceaux in Sussex? and whence did they get their new title? and why, if Barons Saye and Sele, is Elizabeth Danvers' father-in-law called simply 'Richard Fiennes'? Now, in order to explain all this, we will for a time leave William Danvers and his bride and Culworth, and briefly trace the history of the Fiennes family.

The Fiennes or Fienles family were of baronial rank, and came from Fiennes, a place not far from Calais. Eustace, Baron of Fiennes, about the year 1020 married Adila, lady of Ardres, daughter of Everard de Furnés, and had by her a son, Conon de Fiennes, who founded Beaulieu Abbey, Boulogne, and had issue Conon, the father of Eustace, ancestor of the Barons

---

Sylvester Danvers and William Danvers. The seal of the former appears to bear a coat-of-arms, but the details are illegible; that of the latter is a device. On the back of the deed, in the handwriting of the period, is written 'The Intayle of Culworth.' A copy of this deed forms one of our illustrations.





This Indenture made the fyrst
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Sylvester Danvers
Apon the hill in the counte of leycester squyer [illegible]
in Easter terme in the thyrde yere of the reygne of
Prinkes with thappurtenance in the sayd counte of
& one halfpeny of Rent & the rent of
The whiche Recovere was had to th'use of the
th'use of the sayd William Danvers & of the
Syr John Danvers / whiche Recovere was done
And of & in all other the sayd londes tents hereditam
& of his heyres And the sayd Recoverers so
in the sayd Recovere to th'use of the sayd Syr John
of the heyres male of the body of the sayd William
in the sayd Recovere to the uses mencioned in the
Syr John Danvers dyed And the sayd [illegible]
day of February in the seven & twenty yere of
the Prinkes with theyr appurtenance in the [illegible]
ryght heyres of the sayd Syr John Danvers And
his Remaynder as of fee taylle to hym & to the
William Danvers & to the heyres male of his body
theyr heyres & uses to & with the sayd Thomas
day of August next ensuyng the date of these
[illegible] Prinkes And also the sayd [illegible]
halfpeny of Rent & the sayd Rent of
shall suffre by his sufficient Attorney sufficient
the same wrytt / wherupon the sayd William Danvers
vouche over the comon vouchee in suche maner &
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of the body of the sayd William Danvers lawfull
& [illegible] [illegible] the sayd Sylvester Danvers
[illegible] sette theyr seales the day & yere above

de Fiennes. The family was at a very early period seated in Kent, and held the office of hereditary Castellans of Dover Castle. Such is the brief history of the origin of the family which is given in 'The Norman People,' and it is supported by many ancient records. The name appears in the Battle Abbey Roll, but in a curiously misspelt form, as Fleutz.*

The first of the family in England regarding whom more than a mere mention can be found in authentic ancient rolls is Ingelram de Fiennes, a famous warrior, Constable of Dover Castle, and Steward of the Household to Henry.† Ingelram was a Crusader, and was slain at Acre in the Holy Land in the year 1190. His wife was Sybil de Tyngrie, a lady of very ancient and illustrious descent, the daughter and heir of Faramus, Count of Boulogne. Of her ancestry we might have known but little had not she and her father been benefactors to the great Norman Abbey of Bec (the abbey which gave Lanfranc and St. Anselm to England), amongst the charters of which their good deeds, and their descent, are recorded. Curiously enough, the genealogists of her family have fallen into the mistake of making Sybil, the great, or rather, great-great-granddaughter of Eustace III. of Boulogne, who married Mary (the daughter of Malcolm of Scotland and his Queen the sainted Margaret), mother of Matilda the Queen of King Stephen. But this Sybil could not have been, for, in the first place, Mary and Eustace III. had but one child, Matilda, and further, it is barely possible that Sybil, whose husband was slain in the year 1190, can have been fourth in descent from Eustace III., who died about the year 1125.

The charter of Sybil de Tyngrie is given at length in the 'Monasticon Anglicanum,' and she is styled therein Domina de Clopham, and daughter of Faramus de Boulogne. Her father's charter is quoted in the same volume, and styles him son of William, son of Geoffrey, son of Eustace of Boulogne. The names of the brothers of Eustace III., sons of Eustace II., are well known in history: they were Godfrey de Bouillon and Baldwin, the renowned Crusaders. But Eustace I.—

---

* Battle Abbey Roll, by the Duchess of Cleveland, vol. ii., p. 19.

† Dugdale's 'Baronage of England,' vol. ii., p. 243; and vol. i., p. 513; Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. ii., p. 470; and Chauncy's 'Herts,' p. 172.

Eustace 'with the eye'—Count of Boulogne, who married Mahaut, the daughter of Lambert, 'the bearded' Count of Louvain (died about 1049), had several sons, and of these one was Geoffrey, who probably was the great-grandfather of Sybil de Tyngrie. Willingly would one accept the descent of Sybil which Dugdale and others assume for her—that from Eustace III. and Mary,* the sister of Matilda, Queen of Henry I., children of the sainted Margaret, through whom the old kingly blood passed into the veins of the descendants of the Conqueror, whose fathers were the whole line of Saxon kings, and whose mothers' kin went up to the Cæsars who bore rule in Rome†—yet the descent of Eustace I. is sufficiently illustrious, for it passed upwards through the Dukes of Ponthieu to Bertha, the daughter of Charlemagne.

From Ingelram de Fiennes and his wife, Sybil de Tyngrie, descended many warrior-knights, of whom, John, sixth in descent from Ingelram, married Maude, the daughter and heiress of Sir John de Monceaux, of Herst-Monceaux, and with her brought into the family the blood and the estates of the ancient families of de Herst and Monceaux. William, their son, married, in the reign of Edward III., another great heiress, of even more illustrious descent, Joane, sister and co-heiress of William de Saye, of whom more presently. William Fiennes and Joane de Saye had a son, another William, who, by his wife, Elizabeth Battisford, had two sons, Roger and James.

Roger inherited the greater part of the family estates, and he it was who built at Herstmonceaux the castle, the ruins of which testify to its former magnificence.

James, the other son, fought valiantly in the wars of Henry V., and received from that King and from his son, Henry VI., much preferment. He was created Lord Saye and Sele, and, amongst other posts, held those of Constable of the Tower and Lord Treasurer of England. He was amongst the ministers whom the Earl of Suffolk chose to replace the great nobles who had hitherto been the advisers of the Crown, and on him fell a considerable part of the unpopularity which Suffolk's measures roused amongst the people.

---

* Edition of 1682, vol. i., pp. 573, 583.

† Freeman's 'History of the Norman Conquest,' vol. iv., p. 508, *et seq.*

Shortly after Suffolk's execution, the men of Kent, to whom Lord Saye was well known, rose in arms, and, under the leadership of Jack Cade, entered London. There, in the Guildhall, a court of justice, of which Robert Danvers was made president, was formed, and before it Lord Saye was brought. The excited crowd of insurgents would listen to no appeal from him for justice, or even for a hearing, and he was carried away, executed in Cheapside, and his head and that of his son-in-law, William Cromer, of Tunstall, Kent, at the time Sheriff of the county, were set upon two poles, carried about the streets, and were finally placed on London Bridge.*

The scene is pictured by Shakespeare in the play of 'Henry VI.,' in which Lord Saye thus addresses Cade and his followers:

> 'I sold not Maine, I lost not Normandy;
> Yet to recover them, would lose my life.
> Justice with favour have I always done;
> Prayers and tears have moved me, gifts could never.
> When have I aught exacted at your hands,
> Kent to maintain, the king, the realm, and you?
> Large gifts have I bestowed on learned clerks,
> Because my book preferr'd me to the king:
> And—seeing ignorance is the curse of God,
> Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven,—
> Unless you be possess'd with devilish spirits,
> You cannot but forbear to murder me.
> This tongue hath parley'd unto foreign kings
> For your behoof. . . .
> Tell me wherein I have offended most?
> Have I affected wealth, or honour; speak?
> Are my chests filled up with extorted gold?
> Is my apparel sumptuous to behold?
> Whom have I injured, that ye seek my death?
> These hands are free from guiltless blood shedding,
> This breast from harbouring foul, deceitful thoughts.
> O, let me live!

---

* Halsted, 'History of Kent,' vol. ii., p. 575, says William Cromer was executed by the Cade insurgents at Mile End. His wife, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir James Fiennes, subsequently married Alexander Iden, who slew Cade, murderer of her first husband. See 'Second Part of King Henry VI.,' Act iv., scene 7. She married a third time, Lawrence Raynsford. Harleian Society's vol. v., p. 213.

> Ah, countrymen! if, when you make your prayers,
> God should be so obdurate as yourselves,
> How would it fare with your departed souls?
> And therefore yet relent and save my life.'

Lord Saye was murdered on July 4, 1451, and was succeeded in his title and estates by William, his son by his wife* Emmeline de Walsingham. William married Margaret, daughter and heiress of William Wykeham, the lady who brought to the Fiennes family Broughton Castle and other estates which her father inherited from his father, Sir Thomas Wykeham, great-nephew and heir of William of Wykeham. William, second Lord Saye, served with the King in Guines, taking with him twenty men-at-arms and eighty archers, was made Constable of the castles of Porchester and Pevensey, was Vice-Admiral to Richard, Earl of Warwick, and died fighting valiantly for the King at the battle of Barnet in 1471. His wife after his death married a certain John Harvey, and died on May 20, 17 Edward IV. Her inquisition,† taken at Dadyngton, in Oxon, speaks of her as the heiress of William Wykeham, and as formerly wife of William Fenys, Dominus de Say. In Oxfordshire she and her husband held of the King the manors of Broughton, North Newington, and Bloxham, and the fourth part of the manor of Stanlake. This last they had settled upon their son Henry and his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Harcourt. Margaret survived her son, and her heir was Richard, son of Henry and Anne, aged at the time of his grandmother's death six years and more.

Henry Fiennes married, as just stated, Anne Harcourt, whose descent takes us back to the early history of the Cotentin, where, about the period of the Conquest, the Harcourts were the suzerains of the Danvers family. Anne's father was Sir Richard Harcourt of Witham, son of Sir Thomas Harcourt, who, again, was son of another Sir Thomas and his wife, Matilda, daughter of Lord Grey of Rotherfield. Sir Thomas descended from the Sir Robert Harcourt who, at the time of the Conquest, married Matilda, daughter of William de Braose, lord of Bramber Castle.

---

* See Nichols, who, in 'Bib. Topogr. Britan.,' vol. i., p. 22, controverts the assertion that Lord Saye married Emmeline Cromer. The Oxon Visitation merely states that he married Emelyn, d. of . . .

† Inquis. No. 45 of 17 Edward IV.

Henry Fiennes, in right of his mother, was lord of Broughton Castle, but his lot fell in evil times, for twice he was made prisoner in the wars, and he was obliged to sell or mortgage almost the whole of his estates in order to pay his ransoms; and so it happened that, because of the loss of his estates, his son and grandson were not summoned to Parliament, and 'were called only Fiennes.'

His inquisition, taken at Dadyngton in January (No. 34) of 16 Edward IV., shows the low estate to which his fortunes had fallen. He is called 'dominus de Say,' but he held of the King in Oxon only two acres of land and two tofts in Bloxham. He died on August 1, 16 Edward IV., and his heir was his son, the child Richard, then two years of age.

Richard is mentioned in his grandmother's inquisitions, in both of which he is described as son of Henry, son of William and Margaret. With him the fortunes of the family revived, for he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Croft, receiving with her as dower the family estates of which Sir Richard* had become possessed. Sir Richard was, it would seem, the Richard Croft who was Sheriff of Herefordshire in the year 1471. He was the tutor under whom Edward, Earl of March, afterwards Edward IV., and his brother Edmund, Earl of Rutland, were brought up.† We find the young earls complaining of their tutor's severities; yet Sir Richard, faithful, though austere, retained his pupil's favour after his accession to the throne.

Richard Fiennes died on September 30, 1501,‡ leaving as his heir his son Edward, aged one year and more. He left also three daughters, of whom Anne, the eldest, married John, Lord Zouch; another, Mary, became a nun of Godstowe; and the third, Elizabeth, married William Danvers of Culworth.

Edward Fiennes, son of Richard, married, about the year 1519, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey and his wife, Dame Anne. Edward Fiennes* died on July 7, 1528, and was buried in Broughton Church, where his tomb remains. His son and heir was Richard, aged, at the time of his father's death, eight years.

---

* Dugdale, in his 'Baronage,' vol. ii., p. 246, says that Thomas Brandon, esquire of the body to Henry VII., obtained wardship and custody of the land of Richard Fiennes, and sold these to Richard Croft of Chipping Norton, Oxon.

† Cf. Sir James Ramsay's 'Lancaster and York.' Oxford, 1892.

‡ Inquis. P.M. No. 47 of 16 Henry VII. The inquisition mentions William Fenys and Margaret his wife, and Henry Fenys and Anne his wife.

As regards the subsequent history of the family of Fiennes, we need only add that the male line failing, the barony passed to the descendants of Sir John Twistleton, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of James, second Viscount Saye and Sele, great-grandson of the above-mentioned Richard Fiennes.

There are still two lines of ancestry of the Fiennes, and therefore of the Danvers family, which deserve brief notice. They are those of the families of de Saye and Wykeham.

As already noticed, William Fiennes, who died in 1360, married Joane de Say, descended from the Picot de Say who came to England at the time of the Conquest, and belonged to a baronial family of the name which, even at that early period, had been settled for many generations in the Cotentin. His son, Engelram de Say, was one of Stephen's most valiant partisans, and was with him taken prisoner in 1141 at the battle of Lincoln. His son, William de Say, married Beatrice, sister to Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, a match which in its history forcibly illustrates the licence and disorder of those times. The grandfather of Geoffrey was the Geoffrey de Mandeville, who, fighting courageously by William's side at Senlac, 'hewed down his adversaries on every side,' and was rewarded with the gift of many lordships taken from his slain or conquered foes, and amongst these were two—Culworth Mandeville and Thorpe Mandeville in Northampton—where, in after times, were seated his descendants, the Danvers family. Another of Geoffrey's manors was that of Wardene, in Essex, where he built the castle which became the chief seat of his immediate descendants. He was succeeded by his son, William, who married Margaret de Rie, daughter and heiress of Eudo, Steward of Normandy.† To him succeeded Geoffrey, who was by Stephen created Earl of Essex, and endowed with many privileges and estates. But, in order to win this powerful noble to her side, Stephen's rival, the Empress Matilda, offered and gave him charters, by which he was granted even greater privileges than Stephen was able to confer. The Empress made him Constable of the Tower, Hereditary Sheriff of Middlesex, and promised, for herself and her heirs, that she would not, without his consent, make peace with his foes, the citizens of London.

---

* Inquis. P.M. No. 91 of 21 Henry VIII. The inquisition mentions Margaret, wife of Edward.

† See 'History of Geoffrey de Mandeville,' by J. H. Round, Esq., London, 1892.

But not long after Geoffrey fell into Stephen's hands, who stripped him of his possessions, and taking from him his castles of Wardene and Plessy, left him a homeless man. Geoffrey, however, was a man of resources, of lawless spirit, at this time, at any rate, not troubled with a tender conscience. He had married his sister Beatrice to Hugh Talbot of Normandy; him he caused her to divorce, and married her to William de Say, 'a stout and warlike man.' These companions collected soldiers, and began to make reprisals upon the King, ravaging his private domains, and spoiling and pillaging in all directions. Amongst other exploits, they seized Ramsey Abbey, turned out the monks, sold the vestments, plate, and furniture, and converted the Abbey into a fortress. For this and other such exploits Geoffrey was excommunicated, but even excommunication did not check his career, in which he continued till, having in the day of battle taken off his helmet, he received an arrow-wound in the head, which was evidently a fatal one. Whereupon, with great contrition for his sins, and making what satisfaction he could, he lay helpless and dying. As the Earl was drawing his last breath, some Knights Templars chanced to pass by and threw over him the habit of their order, that he might die with the cross upon his breast, and having thus done, carried his body with them to London. Give him Christian burial they could not, for none but the Pope could absolve so great a sinner; but they placed the Earl's body in a lead coffin, and hung it upon a gnarled tree in the Temple garden. There for some time the body remained, till Geoffrey's brother-in-law, William de Say, together with the Prior of Wardene, obtained from Pope Alexander III. absolution for his soul and leave of Christian burial for his body. But the Templars, hearing that the Earl's friends were coming to remove the body, privately buried it in a nameless place in their new churchyard, where possibly the coffin and the bones of the Earl may still remain.

William de Say and Beatrice Mandeville had two sons and two daughters. One only of the sons, Geoffrey, survived his father, and he gained great estates by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Walter de Maminot.

Passing by the intervening members of the family of de Say, we may notice Maude, wife of Geoffrey de Say, and mother of the Joane who married William Fiennes. Maude was the daughter of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, one of the great baronial party which controlled, and finally deposed, Edward II. The Earl married Alice, daughter of de Toeni, widow of Thomas de Leyborne, and Maude de Say was one of their children. Guy died in the year 1315, and his will has been preserved. It is a curious document, if only as evidence of the articles which a great noble counted amongst the valuables of his personalty. To Alice, his wife, he leaves part of his plate, a crystal cup, half his bedding, and all the vestments and books in his chapel. The other half of his beds, rings, and jewels he leaves to his daughters, and to Maude a crystal cup.

The other line of ancestry of the Fiennes family which we have to notice is that of the family of the famous Bishop, William of Wykeham, through the marriage of his heiress, Margaret Wykeham, with William Fiennes. The descent opens the question—one hotly disputed in the latter part of the sixteenth century between Fiennes of Broughton Castle and the Wykehams of Swalecliffe—whether William of Wykeham was allied in blood to the latter family.

The Wykehams appear to have been seated at Swalecliffe, at Wykeham, and at Stoke from a very early period. Their pedigree claims for them descent from a Robert,* son of Walchelin, who is mentioned in Domesday, and the evidence for the descent is well founded, though apparently confused, owing to members of the family having taken their appellations now from one, now from another, of the places in which they held lands. It is beyond doubt that the Robert of Witham (Wicham) and Robert de Swalecliffe of the Rot. Hundredorum, 1278, are one and the same person, and that this Robert was the son of the man who in the 'Testa de Neville' is called Richard de Stokes. This is proved by an entry in the De Banco Roll of Michaelmas, 26 Henry III. (Rot. 25), in which Robert de Wykham claims lands in Stoke as the son of Robert, son of 'Ricus Stok.' We shall not detail at length the pedigree of the Wykeham family, but may mention that amongst the charters which are recorded in the chartulary of Eynsham Abbey is one, placed next to that of Richard Danvers, already referred to, which mentions Thomas Wykeham, son of Thomas,* son of Robert Wykeham. The Robert here mentioned was no doubt the Robert of the Rotul. Hundredorum, and it was his son, another Robert, who married Katherine de La Lee, mother or aunt to the Isabella de La Lee who married John, son of Simon Danvers.

---

* Charter No. 104, in the 'Registrum Antiquissimum' of Lincoln Cathedral, is one of Robert, son of Walquelin, granting all his tithes of Wickeham. Both in the muniments of the Cathedral and Bishop of Lincoln are many notices of the Wykhams of Swalecliffe.

But to revert to William of Wykeham, the great prelate, statesman, architect, and builder, the founder of Winchester College and of New College. Did he belong to the gentle race of Wykeham of Swalecliffe, or was he the son of the plebeian John Long of Wicham, as his biographer, Bishop Lowth, evidently considered him? This much we know, that William Wykeham, or de Wykeham—for he signs himself in both ways—was born in the year 1324 at Wicham, in Hampshire, and that his father was commonly called John Long. His mother, Sybill, was of gentle race, the daughter of Alice and William Bowade, and granddaughter of Amice and William Stratton, the son of the lord of Stratton, near Selborne. John Long and Sybill had two children—William, the future Chancellor, and Agnes, who married William Champneys.† Alice, daughter of William and Agnes, married William Perot, or Perrot,* and their son, Thomas, changed his name, as did his brothers also, and became Sir Thomas Wykeham. This step they took during the lifetime of their great-uncle, William of Wykeham, and clearly with his approval, or he would not have made them his heirs under their new name.

---

* Agnes de Wicham, daughter of Robert, and sister to Thomas, by deeds dated April 1, 5 Richard II., and February 20, 5 Richard II., released to William de Wicham, Bp. of Winchester, the advowson of Swalecliffe Church and land in the parish. De Banco Roll, 5 Richard II., Easter, m. 456.

† It seems probable that Agnes was twice married, and that the name of her other husband was Frye. The evidence is a pedigree on the back of a document which was used in an action against Winchester College for the recovery of one of the College manors. Cf. Kirby's 'Annals of Winchester,' p. 17.

Sir Thomas Wykeham married Elizabeth, the daughter of William Wilkins, of Wylkesey, or Wilcote, and their son, William, married the daughter of Sir Reginald de Trumpington. William Wykeham's daughter and heir, Margaret, married Sir William Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele, from whom descended the Fenys or Fiennes of Broughton and the Danvers of Culworth.

This much prefaced, we pass on to the question of the Bishop's origin—a question which has been much debated. Here we can do little more than show how it was the question became so prominent, leaving those who desire further information on the subject to seek it with the help of the references which are subjoined.†

In the year 1569 Richard Fiennes was admitted to Winchester College as founder's kin: for he was son of Sir Richard Fiennes of Broughton, who was great-great-grandson of Margaret, wife of William Lord Saye, daughter and heiress of William Wykeham of Broughton. The success of Sir Richard Fiennes in obtaining admission for his son to Winchester seems to have stirred his neighbour, Humphrey Wykeham of Swalecliffe, to make a similar claim. Humphrey affirmed that the founder of Winchester College belonged to the Wykeham family, and he appealed to Lord Burghley to support his claim. Burghley referred the matter to Commissioners, of whom the principal was Glover, then Somerset Herald. Somerset Herald reported that Sir Richard Fiennes was undoubtedly kin to the Bishop, being lineally descended from his sister Agnes, but that Humphrey Wykeham was not able to show by his pedigree that he was *ab uno stipite* with the Bishop, and that he relied for the proof of his kinship upon two arguments—identity of name and of arms. But, says Somerset, the Bishop had his name from Wicham in Hampshire, the place where he was born, while a reliable pedigree makes him the son of John Long. And as regards the similarity of arms, the Bishop had two coats. At one time he sealed with a chevron between three roses, and subsequently with two chevrons between three roses, which would show that he had not a family coat-of-arms. Further, though the Wykehams of Swalecliffe bore the two chevrons between three roses, these, says Sir Richard Fiennes, Humphrey's adversary, are not their proper arms, which, as seen in the windows of Swalecliffe Church, are ermine a border gules replenished with mullets of gold; and, adds Somerset Herald, 'Humphrey hath not made proof that his ancestors, before the time of the Bishop, used the chevron and mullets, while in divers books in our office the other coat appears as theirs.' The cause was finally tried before the Lord Keeper, and was given against Humphrey Wykeham. In 1633, and again in 1635-36, when the family pretensions were revived, the decisions were again adverse.

---

* Perot's ancestry is uncertain, but his arms and crest were those of the family of Perrot of Drayton, Oxon, who were a younger branch of the ancient family of Perrot of Pembrokeshire. Compare 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. ii., p. 379; and Harleian Society, vol. v., p. 128.

† T. F. Kirby's 'Annals of Winchester College,' p. 93; Lowth's 'Life of William of Wykeham,' 3rd edit.; Nichols' 'Topographer and Genealogist,' vol. iii., p. 49; 'Herald and Genealogist,' vol. v., p. 225; 'Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica,' vols. ii. and iii.; Moberly's 'Life of William of Wykeham,' 2nd edit.

But more recently the claims of the Wykeham family to kinship with the great Bishop have been very ably raised and supported by C. Wykeham Martin, Esq., who throws doubts upon the use by the Bishop of coats-of-arms differing at two periods of his life, and thinks he has established the early use by the Wykehams of the arms which the Bishop used. He shows, too, that many of the Bishop's kin who were admitted to the college as such bore the name of Wykeham, that one of them was admitted to Winchester as founder's kin during the Bishop's lifetime, and another, Percival Wykeham of Swalecliffe, about thirty years after the Bishop's death. He also shows that the Bishop had many relatives named Wykeham, and adduces the fact that the Bishop was well known to the Swalecliffe family, that he bought Broughton, a part of their old possessions, and there settled his great-nephew, Sir

Thomas Perot, who took the name of Wykeham, becoming Sir Thomas Wykeham.

Mr. Martin contends that the name 'Long,' which the Bishop's father bore, was a nickname only, having reference to his stature; and his argument for the identity of arms of the Bishop with those of the Wykehams of Swalecliffe is ably supported. It is not, however, convincing, and, indeed, Mr. Martin does not claim to have proved his case. Moreover, two considerations seem to have been overlooked by those who have argued the matter: the first is that if William of Wykeham did change his name, taking the name of his birthplace instead of that of his father (whose was at the time a well-known name in Wilts), it is very likely that others of the family may have done the same, so accounting for the number of his relatives who bore the name Wykeham; and as regards his partiality to the neighbourhood of Swalecliffe, which is inferred from his purchase of Broughton Castle, we have to remember that a branch of the Perot family was settled in the neighbourhood, and that other interests which will presently be mentioned would draw his attention to Broughton at a time when he was looking for a suitable estate on which to seat his heir, Sir Thomas Perot, or Wykeham.

The adversaries of Humphrey Wykeham's claim have always made one of their strong points the circumstance that the Bishop, in his will, calls Thomas Wykeham, son of Alice Perot, his cousin, and makes him his heir; whereas, though he mentions the other Thomas Wykeham—Thomas of Swalecliffe—he does not claim relationship with him. And this consideration is materially strengthened by the fact that when the Bishop was arranging the succession to his Broughton property, which, in part if not wholly, once belonged to the Swalecliffe family, he makes no mention of them, though he goes very far afield in search of relatives to whom he may devise remainders to it. These dispositions are contained in documents with which apparently Bishop Lowth was not acquainted: they are Oxon Fine No. 31 of 16 Richard II., which was printed in the 'Collect. Topog. et Genealog.,' vol. ii., p. 368, and an entry in the De Banco Roll of the same year (No. 530, M. 114). We learn thence that the Bishop acquired from Thomas Cook and John de Keton the manors of Broughton, Northnewenton, Wyvelscote, Stanlake, and the advowsons of the churches of Broughton, Wyvelscote, and Stanlake. Thomas and John concede to the Bishop the manors of Wyvelscote and Stanlake, and two-thirds of the manors of Broughton and Northnewenton, with the advowsons as above. The third part of the manors of Broughton and Northnewenton was part of the inheritance of Thomas Cook, and had been given by him as dowry to Elizabeth, wife of Robert Chambre, and this third was not to revert to the Bishop until after the death of Robert and Elizabeth. John Keton was precentor of the church of Southampton, and is mentioned in the Bishop's will. Robert Chambre was a confidential servant of the Bishop's, and Thomas Cook was also connected in business matters with the Bishop;* and this connection of Thomas, John, and Robert with the Bishop, together with the circumstance that the Perot family were seated in the neighbourhood, may be taken to account for the Bishop's selection of this property, without resorting to the supposition that his choice was influenced by any relationship with the Wykehams of Swalecliffe whose ancestors at one time owned Broughton.

After the death of the Bishop the above-mentioned manors and advowsons were to pass to Thomas de Wykeham, son of William Perot and his wife Alice, kinswoman of the Bishop. In case Thomas should leave no children, the estate was to pass to his brother, John de Wykeham; and failing him, to another brother, William de Wykeham. If the three brothers, sons of William and Alice Perot, died leaving no children, then the deed provides for remainder in turn to the following individuals: William Ryngeborne and Edith his wife and their children, Thomas Warenner and Joan his wife and their children, Guido Aynho and Agnes his wife and their children, William Maviel and Isabel his wife and their children, John Beneyt de Bottele and his children, and failing all these to the right heirs of the Bishop.

Now, who are all these people whom the Bishop thus mentions? Thomas, John, and William Perot, who took the name of Wykeham, we know, and if we turn to the pedigree of the Bishop's family, given in Bishop Lowth's work, we shall find that the others were all relatives of the Bishop's father, John Long. Long's sister Alice married John Akemore, and they had five daughters, Emma, Margery, Alice, Maud, and Joan. Alice married Robert Mavyell, and had a son, Robert Mavyell. Margery married . . . Rokle, and they had a son, John, and three daughters—Edith, who married William Ryngborne; Agnes, who married Guy Aynho; and Isabel, who married another member of the Mavyell family, William, and by him had a son, another William Mavyell, and a daughter, Edith, who married William Croyser.

---

* See Rev. J. C. Blomfield's 'Deanery of Bicester,' part vi., p. 14, purchase of Heyford manor by Wykeham.

Emma, sister to Margery Rokle, married . . . Carpenter, and had a son, William, and a daughter, Joan, who married Sir Thomas Warrener, or Warner.

To find John Beneyt de Bottele, we must go back to the Bishop's grandmother, Alice Bowade, who had a sister, Gillian, married to Richard Bottele. Gillian's daughter, Emma, married Richard Beneyt, and their son, John Beneyt de Bottele, second cousin to the Bishop, is the individual mentioned in the Oxford Fine.

Thus, in this deed, we find the Bishop, in making provision for the disposal of his Broughton estate, confines himself to the descendants of his own, the Stratton, family, and goes far afield in order to include some of them. Now, why should he have done this if he was near kin to his neighbours, the Wykehams of Swalecliffe, and why are they omitted in this deed, and as legatees in the Bishop's will? The only reasonable reply is that they were not related to the Bishop's family. Moreover, in this deed the Bishop was dealing with the Broughton property, in which the Wykehams of Swalecliffe were interested. Another very similar deed to the above is printed in the appendix to Bishop Lowth's 'Life of Wykeham.' It is one in which Wykeham made provision for the descent of the Wiltshire manors of Burnham and Brean, which he had acquired. On the Bishop's death these manors were to pass to his nephew, William Wykeham, who was about to marry Alice Uvedale, daughter to Wykeham's friend, Sir John Uvedale. The succession of the remainders varies slightly from that of the Oxfordshire property, as is shown in the appended table:

DEMISE OF MANORS OF BROUGHTON, BURNHAM AND BREAN, WITH COMPARISON OF THE SUCCESSIVE REMAINDERS.

Broughton.	*Burnham and Brean.*
On the Death of the Bishop.	*On the Death of the Bishop.*
1. Thomas de Wykeham, son of William Perot, and his wife Alice, cousin to the Bishop, and the sons of Thomas.	1. William Wykeham, cousin to the Bishop, and to Alice Uvedale, his wife, and his sons.*
2. John de Wykeham, brother to Thomas, and his sons.	2. Thomas Wykeham, brother of William, and his sons.
3. William de Wykeham, brother to John, and his sons.	3. John Wykeham, brother of Thomas, and his sons.
4. The children of Thomas de Wykeham.	4. The children of William Wykeham.
5. The children of John de Wykeham.	5. The children of Thomas Wykeham.
6. The children of William de Wykeham.	6. Thomas Warrener, and his wife Joan, and her sons.
7. William Ryngeborne, and Edith his wife, and to her sons.	7. William Ryngeborne, and Edith his wife, and her sons.
8. Thomas Warenner, and Joan his wife, and to Joan's sons.	8. Agnes, wife of Guy Aynho, and her sons.
9. Guido Aynho, and Agnes his wife, and to the sons of Agnes.	9. William Maviell, and Isabel his wife, and her sons.
10. William Maviell, and Isabel his wife, and to Isabel's sons.	10. John Beneyt de Bottele, and his sons.
11. John Beneyt de Bottele and his sons.	11. The children of the above-mentioned Edith.
12. Children of the above-mentioned Edith.	12. Children of the above-mentioned Agnes.
13. Children of the above Joan.	13. Children of the above Isabel.
14. Children of the above Agnes.	14. Children of John Beneyt.
15. Children of the above Isabel.	15. The right heirs of the Bishop.
16. Children of John Beneyt.	
17. The right heirs of the Bishop.	
Dated 15th year of reign of Richard II. (1391).	Dated 22nd year of reign of Richard II. (1398).

---

* Provided the espousals of William and Alice are celebrated not later than Michaelmas following.

On the Bishop's death Broughton went to Sir Thomas Wykeham, who, with his wife, is buried beneath the fine altar-tomb, in the chancel of Broughton Church, which is prominent in one of our illustrations. Sir Thomas's son and heir was the William Wykeham whose daughter, Margaret, married William Fiennes.

Broughton Castle* is situated about three miles south-west of Banbury, in a valley formed by low, well-wooded hills. Surrounding the castle is a broad moat, across which a bridge gives access, beneath a gateway tower, to the castle enclosure. Close at hand is the parish church, standing amidst overshadowing trees.

The castle, as approached from the gateway, has the characters of a grand Elizabethan mansion; but only externally is it such, for the internal arrangements are still in the main those of the original fourteenth-century house. The house was built in the time of Edward I. by John de Broughton,† who rests beneath the highly-decorated tomb in the wall of the south aisle of the neighbouring church.

In 1467 the building was added to by Sir Thomas Wykeham, who had license to crenellate his mansion of Broughton, and finally, in the year 1554, the Fiennes family modernized the castle, converting it to its present form.

The hall retains its ancient plan and proportions. At its west end was placed the kitchen, but this was subsequently enlarged and converted into a dining-room. At the south-east angle of the hall a doorway leads to a passage which gave entrance to the solar, other private apartments, and the chapel. This passage led in one direction northwards, along the north end of the hall to a newel staircase, which communicates with the upper rooms, while westwards the passage leads to the staircase which gives access to the chapel. To the north the passage opens into two groined rooms, of which the larger one is the small dining-room of the present mansion. The chapel, to which a fine broad staircase leads, is lofty, occupying two stories of the house, but its proportions are small (17 feet 7 inches by 10 feet 9 inches), and it is probable that the worshippers of the household assembled in a large upper room which opens by a grating upon the chapel. The chapel retains its ancient stone altar slab marked with the five crosses, and supported by stone brackets. At this end of the house, in the upper story, is the room in which met Lord Saye and his son, Nathaniel, Hampden and Pym, St. John and Lord Brook, to arrange their plans for resistance to the measures of the Crown. South-east of the chapel is a small tower in which were the garderobes to the different stories.

---

* Cf. Turner's 'Domestic Architecture.'

† John de Broughton held the manor *in capite* by the serjeanty of mewing a goshawk for the King. Plac. Coron., 13 Edward I., Rot. 50, dors, Oxon.

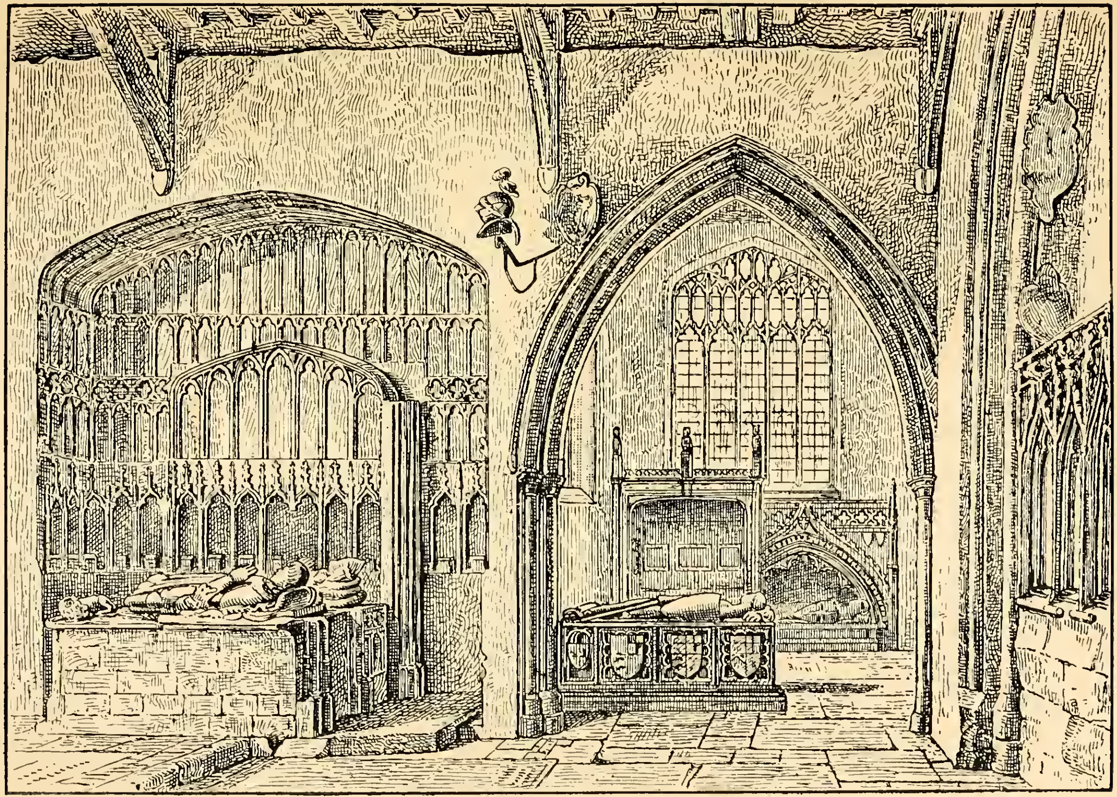
Sir Thomas Wykeham, who succeeded to the estates on the death of his great-uncle, William of Wykeham, had leave to fortify his mansion. He built the wall within the moat, of which only a part now remains; he also added another story to the gate-house, and built the offices which overhang the moat to the east of the gateway, and he added to the east end of the original castle the building in which are now the kitchen, with apartments above, and the guard-room, which opens from the roof. In the year 1554 two bays were thrown out from the north face of the hall; the ancient kitchen was extended northwards, and became the present dining-room, with a drawing-room above; while the kitchen and offices were removed to the extreme east of the building.

But though the building has been thus altered, the body of the hall remains as at the time when the guests assembled there for the marriage of Edward Fiennes and Margaret Danvers. But we question if the marriage can have been solemnized in the ancient chapel; rather must it have been so in the neighbouring church, grand and solemn then, as it still is, and with features which happily have been preserved to the present day. The beautiful Decorated south porch and gateway, the lovely Decorated windows of the south aisle, were there. The fresco of the Last Judgment upon the north wall faced the bridal party as they entered the church; beneath the arch of the stone chancel-screen the bride and bridegroom passed to the altar. On the right hand was the grand tomb of Sir Thomas Wykeham and his wife, and on the left, upon the north wall of the chancel, the fresco of the five joys of the Blessed Virgin looked down upon them. Beneath the recess in the wall of the south aisle John de Broughton, stark and grim, looked out upon the assembled company, his tomb rich in colour and heraldry. Now the bridegroom, Edward Fiennes, rests beneath the canopied altar-tomb which in part hides that of de Broughton. To the north of it, the effigy of another de Broughton knight has been placed upon the raised tomb of Richard Fiennes, father of Edward; while again to the north, within the chancel, at the head of Sir Thomas Wykeham's tomb, is another raised tomb, that of William Fiennes, great-great-grandson of Edward and Margaret. This is the Viscount Saye and Sele who played so prominent a part in the troubled times of the seventeenth century. It is recorded of him that though a leading member of the Puritan party, steering all their councils and designs, yet after the death of the King he turned from Cromwell with abhorrence, and took no further part in politics until the Restoration.

Our illustration shows some of the tombs in Broughton Church, and is copied from a drawing made by Skelton for his work, 'The Antiquities of Oxfordshire.' The drawing is in the possession of the Rev. C. F. Wyatt, Rector of Broughton, who kindly allowed us to make use of it.* The tomb in the foreground is that of Sir Thomas Wykeham and his wife. Since the drawing was made the mutilated effigy of the knight has been carefully restored. The tomb of William, Viscount Saye and Sele was omitted by Skelton, probably with a view to showing the tombs in the south aisle. The farthest off of these, that in a recess in the south wall, is the tomb of John de Broughton, probably the founder of the church, who died about the year 1306. The tomb in front of this is that of Edward Fiennes, who married Margaret Danvers; he died in July of the year 1528. The tomb may be compared with that, in a previous illustration, of Margaret's mother in Dauntsey Church. The tomb in front of that of Edward Fiennes is another Fiennes monument, and is probably that of Edward's father, Richard Fiennes, who died in September of the year

---

* Cf. paper by the Rev. C. F. Wyatt, M.A., Rector of Broughton, in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xlv., p. 443.



Monuments of Sir Thomas Wykeham and the Fienes Family. Broughton Church.

1501. The effigy of a 'Broughton' knight has been placed upon the tomb. The following note regarding the alabaster effigies in the chancel is from the paper by the Rev. C. F. Wyatt, which is referred to above: 'They represent Sir Tho. Wykeham and Elizabeth, his wife. Sir Thomas was really a Perrott, but took the name of Wykeham, as the great-nephew and heir of William of Wykeham. He died in 1441, having married Elizabeth, daughter of William Wilkins, of Wilkesis, or Wilcote, of Northleigh, co. Oxon. He had license to crenellate Broughton Castle in 1405, and it may have been his work rather than the Bishop's to add the clerestory of the nave and the Perpendicular window of the aisle. On the helmet the Wykeham crest, a buffalo's head, is traceable, and the renovated portions of 1846 are distinctly noticeable. Whether the mutilations were perpetrated designedly during the Civil War is uncertain. One tradition imputes them to the Cromwellians, another to the Royalists, when Broughton Castle was besieged by them for one day by Prince Rupert and taken by him, but the more probable cause was the construction of vaults too near this monument, causing shafts, tracery, and effigies to collapse. Five out of the six Viscounts Saye and Sele and many others have been buried near it in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, so that it is pretty well undermined. The male effigy is doubtless meant for a likeness, but the frontal corrugations are hardly natural. With regard to the collars, it must be considered remarkable that man and wife should respectively wear the livery collars of the opposing factions of York and Lancaster, the knight having the Yorkist collar of Suns and Roses, the lady that of SS fastened with three trefoils, with a lozenge for pendant.'

Some three or four years after the marriage of Edward Fiennes and Margaret Danvers a great company of kindred and friends would assemble in the old hall at Broughton to witness the marriage of William Danvers and Margaret Fiennes. There, as host and hostess, were the young couple Edward Fiennes and his wife, the sister of the bridegroom, and with them their new-born heir, Richard, and his grandmother, the 'lady of Dauntesey.' There, too, no doubt, was Thomas Danvers, the elder brother of William, and with him his wife, Margaret Courtenay, and their heir, the boy Silvester. And there, too, were the sisters of the bride—Anne, and her husband, John, Lord Zouch, from Haringworth, and Mary, the nun, from Godstow. There also would be John, the younger brother of the bridegroom, and his sisters—Dorothy and her husband John Fettiplace, and Susan and her husband, Walter Hungerford of Down Ampney, and Constance Staveley and her husband, and Anne Lovett and her husband Sir Thomas of Astwell. From Upton would come William Danvers, cousin to the bridegroom; and no doubt his sister, Alianor, the widow of his elder brother, Thomas, would be present from Colthorpe; while from Waterstock would come another cousin, Elizabeth Cave, and her husband, Sir Thomas; and from Tew Magna Alice Raynsford and her husband, whose granddaughter will hereafter marry the son and heir of William and Margaret. And many neighbours would be there—Wykeham, from Swalecliffe, Doyley, from Adderbury, and Cope, from Hanwell—with many others who were assembled to make merry with the bridal party, and to take part in the gay procession to the church hard by where the marriage was to be celebrated.

And from Broughton in due time the bride and bridegroom journeyed to Culworth, which henceforth was to be their home, and occupied there the manor house in which John of Dauntsey and his wife had lived in their younger days—the house which probably made way before the end of William's life for the house the shell of which has lasted till the present time.

But before we pass to Culworth and its history in connection with that of the Danvers family, let us pause for a moment to note the circumstances of the times, and the changes in Church and State and in the social life of the people which had been recently accomplished, or were threatening accomplishment.

To the industrial classes, the later years of the reign of Henry VII. had been a period of peace and prosperity. The nation was growing rich, for trade and commerce were encouraged, the prices of the necessaries of life were low, while the numbers of the labouring classes were below the increasing requirements of the land, and wages in consequence were high. The King, by his parsimony and by his exactions—which latter, however, had almost entirely affected the wealthy classes—had amassed a huge sum of money, said to amount at his death to about £1,800,000—wealth which he loved for its own sake, and because it enabled him to carry on his schemes of government without the interference of Parliament. Circumstances had combined to make the monarchy an absolute one, for the old nobility had been destroyed by the Wars of the Roses; the Church, which in former times had exercised a controlling authority over the Crown greater even than that of the nobility, was alarmed for its own safety; while the industrial classes had not as yet attained to the numbers or wealth, the intelligence and unity of purpose, which in the next century enabled them to defy, and finally to overawe, the Crown.

And in the year 1522 Henry VIII. was in the zenith of his power, not having as yet, by cruelty and tyranny, forfeited the love of his subjects. Of Englishmen he was an Englishman. The people loved to hear of his strength and beauty, of his profusion and magnificence, and even of his unthrift. They were proud of the position which he had won for England amongst foreigners; of his successful wars in France and Scotland; and even forced loans and benevolences had something of sweetness in them, for if they burdened the people, they sustained the power of a King whose alliance was courted by Emperors, Pope, and Kings.

To return to Culworth—Culeorde of the Domesday Book, Coleworth of less ancient records. The parish at the time of the great Survey embraced two manors, one of which was held by Osborn, of Geoffrey de Mandeville, and the other (afterwards the Pinkeney manor) was held by Ghilo, the ancestor of the Pinkeney family. In the time of Henry II., William de Coleworth held the Pinkeney manor, and with his descendants it remained till the year 1266, when Richard de Coleworth, on the death of his brother William, gave the manor to Sir Roger de Pinkeney. Such is the account Baker gives of the transference; but an entry in the Close Roll of 50 Henry III.,

M. 33, leads one to question the gift, for we find there that Erneburg, who was the wife of Richard de Coleworth, an 'enemy of the King's,' has granted to her for her sustentation the manor of Evesham, in the place of her husband's lands in Coleworth and Sulgrave. Probably, therefore, it was the King who gave the manor in question to Sir Robert Pinkeney. Sir Henry, brother and heir of Sir Roger, sold the manor to Roger de Mussenden, who already held the other Culworth manor, that of Mandeville. With the Mussendens both manors remained till the year 1362, when Hugh de Mussenden died, leaving a widow, Agnes, and two daughters—Alice, aged 16, and Felicia, aged 11. Alice married (1) John de Beaumond, carrying to him the Pinkeney manor, and (2) Nicholas Gunwardby; while her sister Felicia was given in marriage by her mother Agnes, now married to Thomas de Brancestre, to Walter Burnham, to whom she carried the Mandeville manor. Then, according to Baker, the manors were sold to the trustees of Alice Perrers, mistress of Edward III. On the death of the King and the attainder of Alice, the manors were confiscated, but were subsequently, in the year 1379, restored to her husband, Sir William Windsor.

Additional Charter 38810, one of the newly-acquired Culworth series, a royal charter of 3 Richard II., sets forth that Alice de Pereres, now wife of our beloved and faithful William de Wyndesore, when single (sola) acquired tenements in the city of London, a tenement in Bermundeseye, the manors of Gonyldesbury and Pallyngeswyk, certain lands called Northbrokes in Fulham, lands and tenements called Suthcote in Rislip, and in Harwe, Colnbrook, Stanewell, and Horton, a tenement in Braynford in Middlesex, the manor of Bournehalle, and lands, etc., in Bussheye, Watford, Herteshead, and Crokleygrene in Hertford, two parts of the manor of Westneulond, the reversion of the manor of Upmynstre, lands and tenements in Haveryng-atte-Boure in Essex, the manor of Colworth, three carucates of land, forty acres meadow, and sixty shillings of rent, with the advowson* of the church of Colworth, the manor of Farnden near Byfield, a tenement in Northampton, in Northamptonshire, the manor of Compton Murdak (after the decease of Alice, widow of Sir John Murdak), the manor of Keyngham, tenements and lands in the city and county of Oxford, the manor of Esthanney, the manor of Drayton, lands and tenements in Abyngdon, Sutton, Drayton in Berks, the manor of Menestoke in Southampton, the manor of Lytton and Pouerstok in Dorset, the manor of Knolle and Luddeford in Somerset, the third of three manors in the town of Fennysutton in Wilts, the manor of Stoke Maundeville near Wendover in Bucks, lands and tenements in Burton Noveray in Leicester, in Burghwell in Kent, the manor of Rodeston in Northampton, of Bixe in Oxon, the manor of Morton in Northampton. And because of a judgment against Alice Pereres in our Parliament these manors, lands, etc., had returned to our hands, we, of our special grace, and for the good service of William de Wyndesore, who, on account of an indenture between us, is to aid us with two hundred men-at-arms and two hundred archers in Britany and in France, we give and grant to the said William de Wyndesore all the said manors, lands, tenements, etc., etc., to have and to hold for himself and his heirs, excepting the manors of Rodestone, Bixe, and Morton, which are to be held by him only during the continuance of certain lives. Given at Westminster, March 15, 3 Richard II.

---

* The advowson of the vicarage, which was distinct from that of the rectory. See inquisition of Samuel Danvers, jun., in Appendix to Chapter X.

Now, as regards the Culworth estate mentioned in the above charter,* it is spoken of as the manor of Colworth, and the land attached to it is but a small part of the land pertaining to both manors. Hence we should infer that only one of the manors came into the possession of Lord Wyndesore, and this one that of Pinkeney, and that this was so we learn from the fact that Sir Robert Danvers bought the Pinkeney manor from Alice Corve, to whose husband it came from John Maclyn, who bought it from the Wyndesore family (Additional Charters, Culworth series, Nos. 38817, 38824, 38827, 38828, 38830, 38832, 38833, 38836), but the Mandeville manor Sir Robert bought after a lapse of fourteen years from John Burnham, son of Walter (not Nicholas, as Baker has it) Burnham and Felicia his wife, who was one of the daughters and heiresses of Agnes, widow of Hugh de Mussenden (see page 90).

---

* In the year 1893 the British Museum bought 119 Culworth and Danvers Charters, which have been numbered 'Additional Charters 38793-38910.' The earliest of these deeds concerns the Mussenden family, and is dated 1257; the latest deed, dated 1763, is the record of a gaol delivery during the Shrievalty of Sir Michael Danvers. The deeds evidently formed at one time the main portion of the contents of the Culworth manor house muniment-chest, and are the deeds upon which Baker's history of the manor is mainly based. Many of the deeds, of any importance, written during and since the lifetime of Sir Samuel Danvers, the first baronet, are wanting to the series, and are in the possession of the present lord of the manor of Culworth. Others of the period, and some of earlier date which were required to complete the series which Baker used, have also passed into private hands.

Culworth—that ancient village—stands seven and a half miles north-east of Banbury, in the hilly country which owes its configuration to the presence and to the denudation of the 'Northampton Sands.' The village stands upon a ridge of these sands, which, in their turn, rest upon the 'Upper Lias clays,' which north and south and east surround the Culworth ridge. Very different would have been the contour of the district had it not been that the relative softness of the Northampton Sands allowed of their being easily cut into by the denuding waters ;* while, had the denudation not stopped where it did, instead of high ridge-shaped hills, covered with dry arable soil, and many brooks flowing in the valleys, and many villages scattered along the crests of the ridges, there would have been a tame, flat country with a heavy clay soil, fit only for pastures ; and, in consequence of a lack of good water, few villages would have been found in the district. As it is, owing to the position of the sands upon an impermeable clay, water accumulates therein for the supply of the village wells, and flowing gently from the base of the sands provides the fertilizing streams which run in the valleys. Thus, in each of the valleys north and south of the Culworth ridge, we find a streamlet, which, meeting with another feeder of the Cherwell coming from the north, form the stream that turns the Culworth mill.

The highest point of the Culworth ridge is 556 feet above sea-level, and on it stands the village church. To the south the level falls steeply some 150 feet to the valley which intervenes between the villages of Culworth and Thorpe Mandeville. The church of this latter village is about a mile and a half south of that of Culworth, and stands at an elevation of 550 feet. A mile and a half east and a little north of Thorpe Mandeville is the village of Sulgrave, also standing upon a ridge. The three villages stand, in fact, upon three offshoots from a main ridge, which has a direction east-north-east, and upon which runs the Banbury road.

---

* See memoirs of Geological Survey, Northampton.

Culworth must have been a village of note from a very early period in the history of our isle, for through it, or close to it, ran two of the main roads of that part of the country. Of them, one was the ancient trackway which, under the name of 'Banbury Lane,' ran for twenty miles between that town and Northampton. Upon this road, in the neighbourhood of Culworth, were two of the tumuli which occur on eminences along the trackways, and served probably as beacons or signal-posts; one of them is Arberry Hill, on which are remains of a British camp, and the other Barrow Hill, between Culworth and Sulgrave.

Banbury Lane is crossed by the postway which, running from north to south, passed through or near Eydon, Culworth, Arberry Hill, and Thenford towards Aynho. And probably because of its proximity to these ancient ways, and the more modern roads which succeeded them, Culworth has frequently formed the resting-place of contending armies. Through it bands of Danes poured on their excursions westwards from their headquarters at Northampton. Thus Florence of Worcester chronicles that in the year 914, after Easter, an army of the pagans from Northampton and Leicester plundered the county of Oxford, and killed many people in Hooknorton and other towns; and in these forays, writes Beesley,* the Danes passed from Northampton along Banbury Lane, which continued on past Banbury to Hooknorton. Close to Culworth, at Danesmoor, tradition and the name of the place witness that a great battle was fought between the Saxons and the Danes; and not long prior to the Conquest this part of the country was largely inhabited by Danish settlers, one of whom,

---

* Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 53, *et seq.*

Osmund the Dane, at the Conquest held the freehold of Thorp Mandeville.

Later on, in the troublous times that followed upon the death of Henry I., the country about Culworth again suffered. To this the two castles which were built, probably by one of the Mandevilles, at Culworth and at Sulgrave, testify; for wherever such existed, the wretched men of the land were cruelly oppressed.

In the year 1469 Danesmoor was again the site of a great battle, on this occasion between the northern insurgents, under Neville and Latimer, with Sir John Conyers as their general, and the royal forces, mainly Welshmen, under the Earl of Pembroke. The armies met on the plain of Danesmoor, which lies between the hills of Chipping Warden, Edgcot, Culworth, and Thorp, the insurgents occupying Culworth, with its hill, as well as the Thorp and Edgcot hills. At the first the battle, mainly owing to the valour of the Earl's brother Sir Richard Herbert, went in favour of the royal forces; but later on the Welshmen, alarmed by the appearance upon Culworth side of a body of men whom they took to be the Earl of Warwick 'with all his puyssance, sodaynlye as men amased fledde,' whom the northern men pursued and slew without mercy for the cruelty that they had showed to the Lord Latimer's son. The Earl of Pembroke, with his brother and many other gentlemen, were taken, and were the next day beheaded at Banbury.

Again, in the Civil War, Culworth and its neighbourhood became a battlefield, and there, on May 6, 1643, the Earl of Northampton discovered the rebels, and, drawing them from their position, defeated them with considerable loss at the neighbouring village of Middleton Cheney. Through Culworth the King, with his army, passed on his march from Oxford to Banbury, and there, on the night of June 27, 1644, he rested at the house of Sir Samuel Danvers.

Culworth street runs for about half a mile along the brow of the ridge, the level rapidly falling away to the north and south and at the western extremity of the village. About the centre of the street is the village green, with the remains of the village cross. The cross was erected in the year 1264, and might have weathered wind and rain and have stood till now, had it been left only to the mercy of the elements. But it was not probable that the Puritanism which was so rampant in the neighbourhood, and destroyed the cross at Banbury, would suffer the cross of Culworth to stand, and only a portion of the platform on which the cross stood now remains. To the north of the green is the ancient manor house of the Danvers family. The house was probably built about the middle of the sixteenth century, on the site of an older house, whose position was no doubt determined by the spring of water which the house encloses. The house is one of the long, low, two-storied buildings of the period, built of the gray stone of the neighbourhood diversified by horizontal bands of a darker stone. It consists of the main building, running north and south, eighty-five feet in length. From the northern end and from the centre of this two wings project backwards, and with an eastern limb form a square of fifty-five feet external measurement, which encloses a small court. The recess between the back of the southern end of the main building and the southern wing is occupied by a garden enclosed by a low wall, through which the main entrance to the house was formerly reached. The ancient doorway is now blocked, and the entrance to the house is from the green through a door in the south end of the building which opens into a room, once the parlour. Above the parlour is the bedroom in which King Charles slept. Beyond the parlour was the hall, which occupied a part of the main building, and probably the whole of the southern wing. From the west end of the hall a fine oak staircase led to the upper floor of the house, of which the village tradition says that it was sufficiently broad to allow eight people abreast to ascend. But the staircase, with all else within the house that was worth removing, disappeared not long after the death of Miss Meriel Danvers just one hundred years ago. Staircase, panelling, chimney-pieces, cupboards, and even the lead from the roof, were torn away, and the house, excepting a portion which has been converted into cottages, remains the mere shell of the former manor house of the Danvers family. In its prime the house was one but of medium size, larger than that of Sulgrave, smaller than that of Thorpe Mandeville; for while the hearth tax gives the latter seventeen hearths, it gives Culworth but twelve. Canons Ashby manor house had twenty-three hearths, but then that is, and was, a large house; even Broughton Castle was credited with only twenty-seven hearths.

Externally the picturesqueness of the Culworth house has been greatly lessened by the addition of a new roof and chimney, and by other repairs which were needful to prevent the fabric becoming a ruin.

Eastwards from the manor house stands the church, dedicated to St. Mary, consisting of a chancel, with vestry to the north, nave of four bays, north and south aisles, south porch, and tower, which rises above the west end of the nave. The stone used in the building is mainly that taken locally from the Northampton Sands, and owes its tawny colour to the presence of iron, the characteristic ingredient of the formation.

The church was restored in the year 1840, and four years later the present chancel was built, during the period which Dean Spence has aptly called 'the age of enthusiastic restoration,' during which 'much that was beautiful and inimitable was ruthlessly swept away through ignorance and misplaced zeal. Now well-nigh every village has its neat and pretty church, many of them homes of prayer built in the days of the Plantagenet Kings; each church with its Early English or Perpendicular windows, apparently dating from the last ten or fifteen years; its white-pillared aisles; its wooden benches, more or less skilfully carved; its little chancel, with new and glistening tiles; its reverently-adorned holy table—all telling the story of many earnest and devout worshippers, though not always of wise or learned archæologists.'* Such is Culworth church of the present day.

The ground plan of the older church appears to be unaltered, excepting that there was formerly an aisle adjoining the chancel, probably on the north side, where the vestry now is. This aisle was pulled down by Sir John Danvers about the year 1552-53.

The former chancel† was mainly, if not entirely, Perpendicular work of the fifteenth century, and probably replaced a still older chancel, which, with the nave and aisles, was of late twelfth or early thirteenth century (Decorated) work. Possibly the first church had a tower, but more probably a bell-turret only. The south aisle was probably replaced in the thirteenth century by a more ornate one; parts of it, however—viz., the south porch, the monumental arch, the south wall, with the ambry, and piscina to the east of it, and parts of the original wall and windows—remaining.

---

* *Good Words*, January, 1892, p.15.

† For these details I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., who has allowed me free use of his valuable notes on the parish and church of Culworth.

Probably in the fourteenth century a new north aisle was erected, or the windows were altered. The north wall of this aisle was formerly covered with frescoes. The lower part of the tower appears to be fourteenth century work; the upper part of fifteenth century work, of the same age as the clerestory, the porch, and the late chancel. The date of the font is 1662.

The advowson of the rectory was given to Canons Ashby Priory by Robert de Culworth between 1199 and 1216. Probably the south aisle was built in the time of Thomas, who succeeded his brother, Robert de Coleworth, and the monumental arch in the south aisle may mark the grave of one of the brothers. The Richard, 'the enemy of the King,' was grandson to Robert. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the rectory and advowson of Culworth were (1544) granted to Richard Andrews, who the following year had leave to sell to John Danvers, who presented in 1546. From John Danvers they descended to Mrs. Meriel Danvers, who presented in the year 1781. Subsequently Miss Danvers annexed the impropriate rectory to the vicarage, and sold the advowson of the vicarage.

Neither in the church nor the churchyard do any very ancient monuments remain, excepting the arch in the south wall. In the church the oldest post-Reformation monument is a stone in the aisle to the memory of Mrs. Lettice Trist, wife of William Trist. She died in the year 1621. Another stone is to the memory of Thomas Trist, one of the Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple. He died in the year 1630, aged fifty-seven.

The oldest decipherable inscription in the churchyard is on a stone to the memory of Robert Kenning, buried April 28, 1660, and to his wife Christian. Thanks to the thoughtful care of the present rector, the Rev. Charles Hill, the whole of the tombstones have been numbered, and the inscriptions upon them have been copied.

To the north of the churchyard the site of Culworth Castle may still be identified. The castle was most probably built by one of the Mandevilles during the reign of Stephen. The earthworks still remain, and measure 43 by 35 yards in extent, besides the surrounding fosse, and a small circular earthwork on the east side.

In 1264 Richard de Coleworth obtained the grant of a weekly market, to be held on Saturdays, and an annual fair on September 7, 8, and 9. The market was confirmed by King Edward III. in 1374, but the fair was removed to July 31 and August 1 and 2. Both have been long discontinued.

Culworth Church* has now five bells, and a priest's bell. No. 1 is inscribed :

1. 'SR IOHN ꓷANVERS,
'John Lole and Christopher Cooke, C.W. William Bagley made mee, 1712.' (Diameter, 32 inches.)

2. 'Thomas Kemble Prestidge, Andrew Wigson, C.W. Edward Hemis fecit December ye 23, 1747.' (Diameter, 34 inches.)

3. 'J. Paget, W. Upson, C.W. John Briant, Hertford, fecit 1806.' (Diameter, 36 inches.)

4. 'Be y^{t} knowne to all that doth mee see that Newcombe, of Leicester, made mee, 1612.' (Diameter, 42 inches.)

5. 'By my voice the people may know to come to hear the word of God. Henry Bagley made mee, 1636.' (Diameter, 50 inches.)

In the year 1713 the upper part of the tower was rebuilt at a cost of £30.

The pancake bell is rung occasionally on Shrove Tuesday, but the custom is dying out. The gleaning bell is rung during harvest at 8 a.m. The tenor bell is tolled in case of fire. The third bell is sounded after a celebration of Holy Communion as the communicants are leaving the church. At the death-knell three tolls are given for a man, two for a woman. The bells are always rung for an hour about 5 a.m. on the four Mondays in Advent, to remind the listeners that 'now it is high time to awake out of sleep.'

---

* North's 'Bells of Northamptonshire.' Leicester, 1878.

The ringing of the Shrive bell, now called the 'pancake bell,' is still continued in many Northampton parishes. On Shrovetide, or Confession Tuesday, confession was made in the open church, where the priest sat in an open chair, and the bell was rung to remind the people of their duty.

On Shrove Tuesday, preparatory to Lent, in order to use up all the grease, lard, dripping, etc., these were made into pancakes, and the apprentices and others in the house were summoned to the meal by the pancake bell.

As regards the church goods of Culworth, we find that in 6 Edward VI. an indent* was made at Culworth on October 7, between John Coope, Knight, Thomas Lovet and William Chauncey, Esquires, Commissioners, and John Danvers, gent, and Ubert Watts, when the commissioners put in charge of John and Ubert the following goods which were present in the church: Imprimis a challis of silver pccell gilt weighing 12 ounces and one pennyweight. Item iiii. bells in ye Steeple and a sanctus bell. Item one coope and a vestment, of crimson velvet both. Item a coop of whyt damask.

The challis of silver has disappeared; possibly it formed a part of the great butt, filled with plate and money, which, in October of the year 1642, went to London from Banbury and the neighbourhood for the Parliament's assistance. The oldest piece of plate now belonging to the church is a silver chalice, weighing seven and a half ounces, bearing the date 1681-82.

It is interesting to compare the payments for the casting of the bells as we find them in the accounts. The fourth bell, 42 inches in diameter, was made by Newcombe, of Leicester, in the year 1612, and we find in or about that year that £10 was paid to the bell-founder for it. Two shillings and sixpence was paid for taking it down, and for hanging the bell 4s. 6d. The accounts for the year 1636, when the fifth bell was made by Bagley, are wanting. North gives the date of the first bell, cast by Bagley, as 1712; but in the rubbing of the inscription on the bell, the last figure of the date is more like a 5 than a 2, and the charges for the bell appear in the parish accounts for the year 1715. The first and second bells were then recast at a cost of £10 10s., and the churchwardens received £6 6s. for

---

* Record Office, Q. R. Church Goods $\frac{7}{2}$, 6 Edward VI.

168 lb. of metal by which the new bells were lighter than the old. Also they received 7s. 6d. for old wood that did belong to the bells. One of the churchwardens, Christopher Cooke, whose name is on the bell, received £1 for his expenses in carrying the bells to and from Northampton, and 7s. for the cost of loading the bells. Six shillings was paid for taking down the bells; £4. 12s. to Richard Mason, bell-hanger, for thirty-seven days' work at 2s. 6d. a day; and 15s. to John Lole for thirteen days' work at 14d. per day. Timber and boards for the bells, £1. 2s.

The second bell was recast by Edward Hemis in 1741, when the following charges appear in the accounts: For casting the bell and half a hundredweight of metal, £10; timber for the bell frame, £2. 19s. 6d.; Richard Wright, for work at the bells, £2. 15s. 6d.; the plumbers' bill, 12s.; and eating and drinking for the plumbers, 3s. 8d.; carriage of the bell to Bicester, £1. 15s.; charges at Bicester on two occasions, £2. 13s.; bell-founder's diet and other expenses, £1. 4s.

The third bell was made by John Briant in 1807, and the charge for recasting is £19. At the same time £10 was paid to Mr. Briant for rehanging the tenor bell, turning it that the clapper might strike in a new place, for a new wheel for the bell, and for clipping the edge of the fourth bell to put it in a higher key. There are many other charges at the time in connection with work on these bells, but they are apparently mixed up with charges for other work, from which they cannot now be disentangled.

Rectors and Vicars of Culworth.

Date.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
	Elias	William de Coleworth.
1267	Thomas, son of William de Coleworth	Prior Alexander, of Canons Ashby.
	Nicholas de Turre	Prior of Canons Ashby.
1270	William de Bouere	,, ,,
1273-74	Thomas de Blaolsle	,, ,,
	Richard de Evesham	,, ,,
1334	William	,, ,,
	Vicar.	
1356	Sir John Huggys	,, ,,
1368	John Walsche, of Warden	,, ,,
1375	Richard Sley, of Melton Mowbray	,, ,,

Date.	*Vicar.*	*Patron.*
1376	Richard Wryghte	Prior of Canons Ashby.
	John Bole, of Scaldwell	,, ,,
1409	William Stafford	,, ,,
1416	John Reynold	,, ,,
1421	John Waryn	,, ,,
	Henry Watford	,, ,,
1437, Aug. 20,	William Coleworth, on resignation of Henry Watford	,, ,,
?	William Peg	,, ,,
1473-74	William Hancock, on death of William Peg	,, ,,
1489-90	Richard Lytche	,, ,,
1489-90	John Gardner	,, ,,
1529	Thomas Langton	,, ,,
1546	Sir John Stavebridge	John Danvers.
1561	Ralph Greenhill	Dorothy Danvers.
1583	Andrew Knight	Samuel Danvers.
1590	Edmund Rudierd	
1605	John Trelawney	John Danvers.
1629	Sampson Gaydge, Rector of Edgcote	Sir John Danvers.
1657	William Gilbert	(?)
1694	John Yorke	Sir Pope Danvers.
1717	John Plomer, Rector of Belton, Warwick, and Master of Rugby School	Sir John Danvers.
1731	Daniel Rushworth	,, ,,
1735	Robert Pemberton	,, ,,
1758	John Hutchins	Sir Michael Danvers.
1765	Richard Hutchins	,, ,,
1781	Thomas Biker, Rector and Vicar	Mrs. Meriel Danvers.
1804	William Greenwood ,, ,,	(?)
1805	Thomas Hind ,, ,,	William Greenwood.
1815	Henry Salmon ,, ,,	Grace, widow of above.
1829	John Spence ,, ,,	Sawyer Spence.
1852	Joseph Webb ,, ,,	
1854	Charles Hill, M.A.	William Wilson, Esq., Whitacre House, Warwick.

Mrs. Meriel Danvers gave the rectorial tithes to the living and twenty-four acres of land. Therefore, after her time the incumbents were styled rectors and vicars. The above list is from Baker's 'History of Northampton,' corrected and completed by reference to the original Institutions of the Bishops of Lincoln and Peterborough, and by MS. of the present Rector.

The church registers begin with the baptisms of the year

1562; the entries of burials begin in the year 1610, and those of marriages in the year 1620. Many Lay Subsidy Rolls of Culworth are extant, and will be found at the Public Record Office. The earliest, marked $\frac{155}{31}$, is not dated, but is of the reign of Edward III., and the name which heads the list is that of Roger de Mussenden, who pays 12s. 8d.; he is followed by Geoffrey le Bur, Henry Scot, John Mulle, Richard Pere, and others. The first roll in which the name of Danvers appears is that of the year 1534 ($\frac{156}{172}$). Mr. William Danvers heads the list, and is followed by Symon Gardyner, Robert Watts, and others. In the year 1543 we have another full roll of the Culworth taxpayers, headed as before by Mr. William Danvers, and this list we give in full. In the year 1545 John Danvers takes his father's place in the roll.*

Exchequer Lay Subsidy, 35 Henry VIII. ($\frac{156}{183}$).

Cullworth.

Mʳ Willūm Davers in lands	xxxƚi.-xxxs.
Symone gardener in goods	xviijƚi.
Wyberd Watts in goods	xvjƚi.
Willūm coliar in goods	ixƚi.
george Dodford in goods	xƚi.
Nicolas personꝰ in goods	xƚi.
Thomas Kymbell in goods	viijƚi.
Wᵐ geffs in goods	xƚi.
Symon Hadams in goods	xƚi.
Thomas whiste in goods	vjƚi.
John gardener in goods	vƚi.
Thomas ffranklyn in goods	vƚi.
Edmū bull in goods	vƚi.
Agnes peresonꝰ in goods	vƚi.
Henry Stone in goods	iiijƚi.
Robd Herne ī goods	iiijƚi.
Thomas Harris ī goods	iijƚi.
Thomas gybbys in goods	iijƚi.

---

* We learn, just as this MS. is about to be sent to the printer, that a portion of the Culworth Manor Court Roll has been discovered. It is at present in private hands, but may, we trust, eventually find its way to the National Collection, to be placed there amongst the other Culworth deeds.

John coper in guds	xxs.
Lawrens Ewards in goods	xxs.
Willūm Edwards in goods	xxs.
robard Hoby in goods	xxs.
robard ffoster in goods	xxs.
W^m Ebden in goods	xxs.
Willūm poll in goods	xxs.
Richard Hyll in goods	xxs.
John gardener in goods	iijƚi.
Elizabeth Langton in goods	xxs.
Agnes Langton in goods	xxs.
John Langton in goods	xxs.
Thomas gardener in goods	viijƚi.
John Langton in goods	iijƚi.
Henry Whyte in goods	iijƚi.
Thomas Maygote in goods	iijƚi.
Thomas Wycame ĩ goods	xls.
Elyzabeth grante in goods	iijƚi.
John Fayre in goods	xls.
Randoll Jeynkynson in goods	xls.
Milles in goods	xls.
John Daylle in goods	xls.
Richard playsto in goods	xxs.
John Nycolles in goods	xxs.
Willūm Kyng in goods	xxs.
Richard bayly in goods	xxs.
Richard Hall in goods	xxs.
Robard Lowell in goods	xxs.
Willūm crompe in goods	xxs.
Thomas rew in goods	xxs.
John stevens in goods	xxs.
butler in goods	xxs.
Robard barley in goods	xxs.
John rouffe in goods	xls.
my carter in goods	xxs.

Of the above names, five only now (1893) remain in the village: they are Watts, White, Bull, Franklin, Lovell. The name of Watts appears in the Subsidy Rolls from the time of

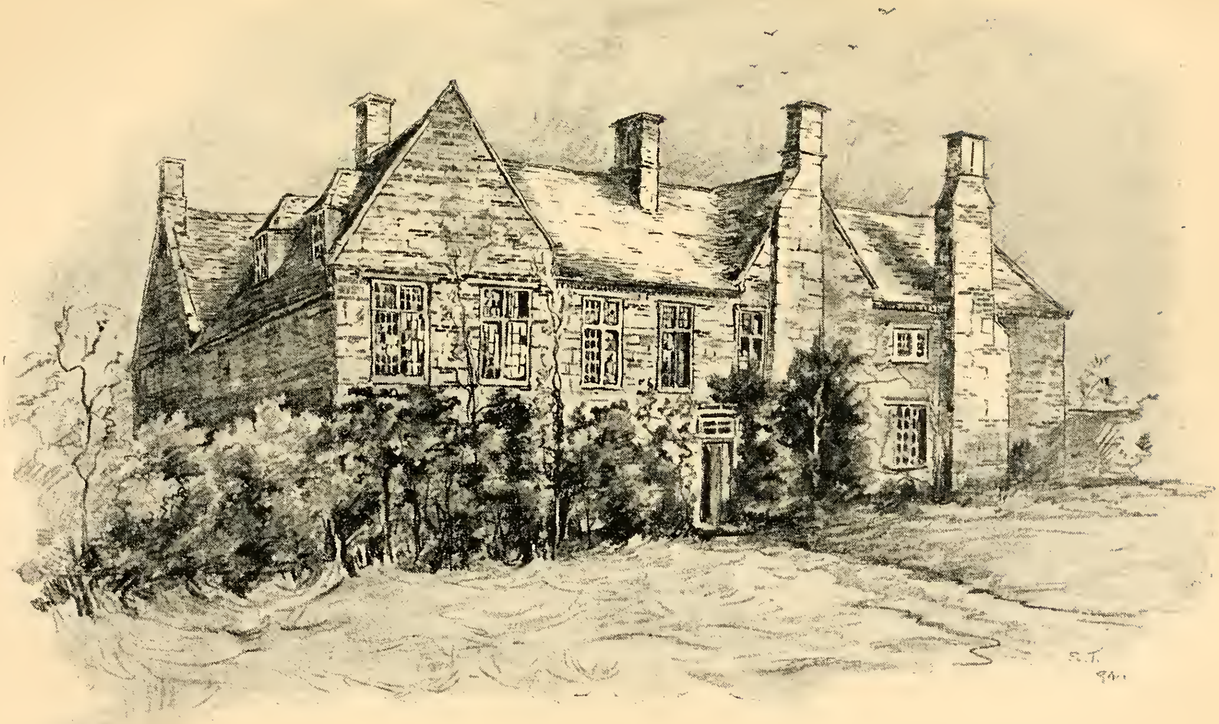
Henry VII., and in that of 1625 Richard Watts is the third name on the roll. Doubtless this was the individual who, in the year 1624, at Horley, married Mary, daughter of Daniel Danvers, and the family now living in the village are very probably descended from that couple.

William Danvers died in June of the year 1544, when about fifty years of age. Of his life since his marriage the only notices that we have been able to gather are those of the death of his child in 1533, and of his purchase of land in Culworth, ten years later. It is probable that he built the present manor house, or a part of it, in the later years of his life, for the style of house is such as the period produced, a period during which the country gentry were, and with very good reason, improving both their houses and their mode of living. Erasmus, in one of his letters (No. 432),* written about the year 1519, gives a very unpleasant account of an English house, of its want of comfort and decency, and of the habits of the people, to the filthiness of which he attributes, and probably with good reason, the prevalence of infectious diseases in the country.

'We read of a city being delivered from a pestilence which had long ravaged it by the destruction and renewal of its buildings. . . . Either I am greatly deceived, or by some such plan must England be delivered. In the first place, they never think whether their doors and windows face north, south, east or west; and in the second place the rooms are generally so constructed that, contrary to Galen's rule, no thorough draft can be sent through them. Then they have a large part of the wall fitted with sheets of glass, which admit the light but keep out the air, and yet there are chinks through which they admit that filtered air which is all the more pestilential because it has been lying there for a long time. Then the floors are generally strewed with clay, and that covered with rushes, which are now and then renewed, but so as not to disturb the foundation, which sometimes remains for twenty years nursing a collection of spittle, vomits, excrement of dogs and human beings, spilt beer and fishes' bones, and other filth that I need

---

* Drummond's 'Life of Erasmus,' vol. i., p. 386. London 1873.



WEST FRONT OF CULWORTH MANOR HOUSE.

fl

ten

n·

Cruttick
Ltmed

not mention.' . . . 'I should have confidence in the island becoming more healthy if the use of rushes could be abolished, and the bedrooms so built as to be open to the sky on two or three sides; and if all the glass windows were so much as to open or shut all at once, and shut so fast as to leave no chinks through which noxious winds could force a passage.'

As to the daily life and occupations of the squire of Culworth, he had to manage his own estate, to which he succeeded on the death of his mother in the year 1539; he may have managed, also, his nephew's estate at Prestcote; business would frequently carry him to Northampton and Banbury, and often he would be called upon to show hospitality to travellers passing from Banbury and Oxford to Northampton and Leicester, while in the villages around he had many neighbours, some of whom it may not be without interest to know. At Sulgrave were an old-established family, the Sottesburys, and there in the year 1538-39 came Lawrence Washington, who at the dissolution obtained a grant of one of the manors in the village which had belonged to the church and monks of St. Andrew's, Northampton. At Thorpe Mandeville were the Kirtons, who subsequently bought the manor from the Freebodys, in whose hands it was during the lifetime of William Danvers. At Edgcote was Sir Edmund Bray, who, however, in the year 1535, sold the estate to secretary Thomas Cromwell. On Cromwell's execution, in the year 1540, Edgcote escheated to the Crown, and was given in dower to Ann of Cleves, who devised the estate, in the year 1543, to Sir William Chauncy. At Eydon Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby, appears to have been the chief proprietor, and at Aston-le-Walls were the Suttons, who had been seated there since the time of Henry III. At Fawsley were the very ancient family of Cnichtel, or Knightley, who have been there from before the Conquest, and are of the very few families which from the Conquest till the present day have maintained themselves in unbroken line in the ancient seat of their ancestors. At Byfield, Simon Verney of the family of William's great-grandmother, Alice, had still a half-fief, and in two of the Lay Subsidy Rolls of the period we find at the same place, amongst the principal inhabitants, John Spuryer, whose name points to his own or his forefathers' trade. At Canons

See page 361.

Prudence Danvers = Wm. Howell

Mary Howell = Richard Ebrall

Ebrall =

William Ebrall =

Mary Ebrall = Timothy Chambers

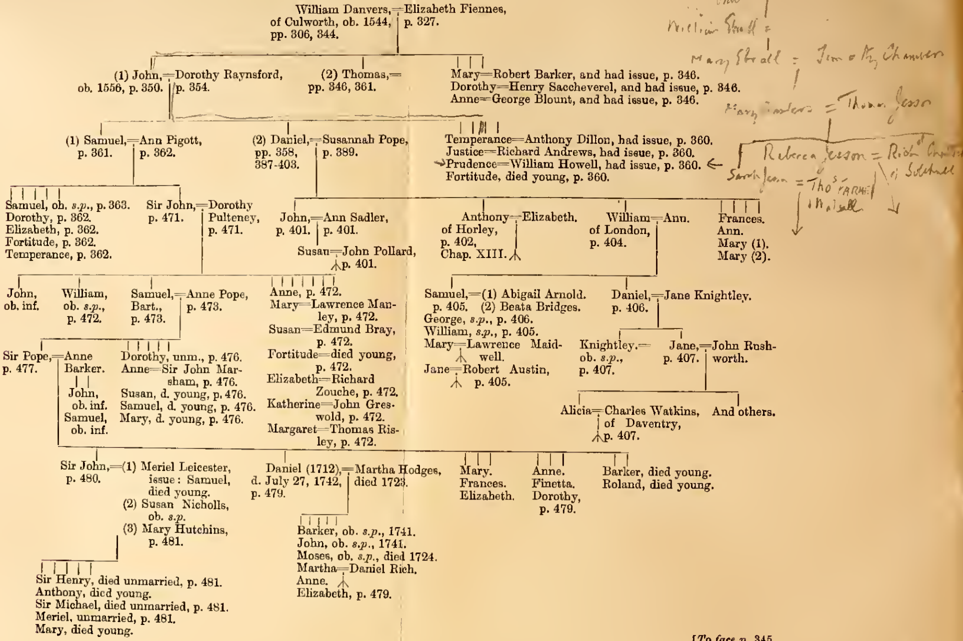
Mary Chambers = Thomas Jesson

Rebecca Jesson = Richd. Chadwick of Solihull

Sarah Jesson = Thos. Farmer of Walsall

DANVERS OF CULWORTH AND LONDON.

(Chapters IX. and XV.)



William Danvers,=Elizabeth Fiennes, of Culworth, ob. 1544, pp. 306, 344. p. 327.

(1) John,=Dorothy Raynsford, ob. 1556, p. 350. p. 354.
(2) Thomas,= pp. 346, 361.
Mary=Robert Barker, and had issue, p. 346.
Dorothy=Henry Sacheverel, and had issue, p. 346.
Anne=George Blount, and had issue, p. 346.

(1) Samuel,=Ann Pigott, p. 361. p. 362.
(2) Daniel,=Susannah Pope, pp. 358, 387-403. p. 389.
Temperance=Anthony Dillon, had issue, p. 360.
Justice=Richard Andrews, had issue, p. 360.
Prudence=William Howell, had issue, p. 360.
Fortitude, died young, p. 360.

Samuel, ob. *s.p.*, p. 363.
Dorothy, p. 362.
Elizabeth, p. 362.
Fortitude, p. 362.
Temperance, p. 362.
Sir John,=Dorothy Pulteney, p. 471. p. 471.
John,=Ann Sadler, p. 401. p. 401.
Susan=John Pollard, p. 401.
Anthony=Elizabeth. of Horley, p. 402, Chap. XIII.
William=Ann. of London, p. 404.
Frances.
Ann.
Mary (1).
Mary (2).

John, ob. inf.
William, ob. *s.p.*, p. 472.
Samuel,=Anne Pope, Bart., p. 473. p. 473.
Anne, p. 472.
Mary=Lawrence Manley, p. 472.
Susan=Edmund Bray, p. 472.
Fortitude=died young, p. 472.
Elizabeth=Richard Zouche, p. 472.
Katherine=John Greswold, p. 472.
Margaret=Thomas Risley, p. 472.
Samuel,=(1) Abigail Arnold. p. 405. (2) Beata Bridges.
George, *s.p.*, p. 406.
William, *s.p.*, p. 405.
Mary=Lawrence Maidwell.
Jane=Robert Austin, p. 405.
Daniel,=Jane Knightley. p. 406.
Knightley.= ob. *s.p.*, p. 407.
Jane,=John Rushworth. p. 407.
Alicia=Charles Watkins, of Daventry, p. 407.
And others.

Sir Pope,=Anne Barker. p. 477.
John, ob. inf.
Samuel, ob. inf.
Dorothy, unm., p. 476.
Anne=Sir John Marsham, p. 476.
Susan, d. young, p. 476.
Samuel, d. young, p. 476.
Mary, d. young, p. 476.

Sir John,=(1) Meriel Leicester, issue: Samuel, died young. p. 480. (2) Susan Nicholls, ob. *s.p.* (3) Mary Hutchins, p. 481.
Daniel (1712),=Martha Hodges, d. July 27, 1742, p. 479. died 1723.
Mary.
Frances.
Elizabeth.
Anne.
Finetta.
Dorothy, p. 479.
Barker, died young.
Roland, died young.

Sir Henry, died unmarried, p. 481.
Anthony, died young.
Sir Michael, died unmarried, p. 481.
Meriel, unmarried, p. 481.
Mary, died young.

Barker, ob. *s.p.*, 1741.
John, ob. *s.p.*, 1741.
Moses, ob. *s.p.*, died 1724.
Martha=Daniel Rich.
Anne.
Elizabeth, p. 479.

[*To face p.* 345.

not mention.' . . . 'I should have confidence in the island becoming more healthy if the use of rushes could be abolished, and the bedrooms so built as to be open to the sky on two or three sides; and if all the glass windows were so much as to open or shut all at once, and shut so fast as to leave no chinks through which noxious winds could force a passage.'

As to the daily life and occupations of the squire of Culworth, he had to manage his own estate, to which he succeeded on the death of his mother in the year 1539; he may have managed, also, his nephew's estate at Prestcote; business would frequently carry him to Northampton and Banbury, and often he would be called upon to show hospitality to travellers passing from Banbury and Oxford to Northampton and Leicester, while in the villages around he had many neighbours, some of whom it may not be without interest to know. At Sulgrave were an old-established family, the Sottesburys, and there in the year 1538-39 came Lawrence Washington, who at the dissolution obtained a grant of one of the manors in the village which had belonged to the church and monks of St. Andrew's, Northampton. At Thorpe Mandeville were the Kirtons, who subsequently bought the manor from the Freebodys, in whose hands it was during the lifetime of William Danvers. At Edgcote was Sir Edmund Bray, who, however, in the year 1535, sold the estate to secretary Thomas Cromwell. On Cromwell's execution, in the year 1540, Edgcote escheated to the Crown, and was given in dower to Ann of Cleves, who devised the estate, in the year 1543, to Sir William Chauncy. At Eydon Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby, appears to have been the chief proprietor, and at Aston-le-Walls were the Suttons, who had been seated there since the time of Henry III. At Fawsley were the very ancient family of Cnichtel, or Knightley, who have been there from before the Conquest, and are of the very few families which from the Conquest till the present day have maintained themselves in unbroken line in the ancient seat of their ancestors. At Byfield, Simon Verney of the family of William's great-grandmother, Alice, had still a half-fief, and in two of the Lay Subsidy Rolls of the period we find at the same place, amongst the principal inhabitants, John Spuryer, whose name points to his own or his forefathers' trade. At Canons

Ashby was the Priory, while the principal landowner was Sir John Cope, son of William Cope, of Banbury, cofferer to King Henry VII. Sir John Cope, by his first wife, Bridgett Rawleigh, a family allied to that of Danvers, had a large family, of whom the eldest son, Erasmus, married Mary, daughter of John Heneage, while his sister Elizabeth married John Dryden, and with her nephew, Edward Cope, succeeded on her father's death to his estates.

Two sons and three daughters survived William Danvers, of whom John, the eldest son, followed him at Culworth. Thomas, the younger son, was mentioned in his grandmother's will, and is mentioned also in the will of his brother John.

Mary, William's eldest daughter, married Robert Barker, of Culworth, son of William Barker, of Stokesley, York, and brother of Sir Christopher Barker, Garter King of Arms. This is the account of the match given by Sir Thomas Phillips in his edition of the 'Visitations of Berks,' and it is corroborated and supplemented by Noble. Noble, in his 'History of Heralds' College,' tells us that Sir Christopher was son of William of Stokesley and Joan, daughter of Sir William Carhill, and sister of William Carhill, Norroy King of Arms.

Robert Barker and Mary Danvers had four sons, one of whom, Robert, B.C.L., (New College) Oxford, married Mary, daughter of William Smith, D.C.L., of Great Horwood, Bucks. Their son, Hugh Barker, M.D., of Newbury, Berks (ob. 1617, æt. 78), was twice married, and has numerous descendants.*

The second daughter of William Danvers,† Dorothy, married Henry Saccheverel, of Sadington and Knibworth, and their granddaughter Susan married John Danvers, younger son of Francis Danvers, of Swithlands, Leicester. One of the sons of Henry and Dorothy, settled at Tadmarton, Oxon (Lay Subsidy Rolls, Oxon, $\frac{164}{493}$ and $\frac{164}{507}$). The third daughter, Anne, married George Blount, of Wiggenton, Oxon ('Visitation of Northampton,' Harleian Society, vol. xii.). We learn from the post-mortem inquisition of William Danvers (89 of 30 Henry VIII.) that he died on June 20, 1544, and that his son and heir, John Danvers was at the time aged nineteen years and forty-nine weeks. The inquisition quotes the deed of his father, John Danvers, by which he devised the manors of Culworth and Sulgrave to his younger sons. The inquisition makes no mention of William's wife, and it is probable that she predeceased him.

---

* Amongst them George Edward Cockayne, Esq., M.A., Clarencieux King of Arms, for whose kind help the writer is under many obligations.

† Nichol's 'Leicester,' vol. iii., p. 220; and Harleian Society, vol. xii. Erasmus Sacheverell, a grandson of Dorothy's, was, A.D. 1624, a scholar of Winchester College.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER IX.

De Banco Roll, No. 530, *No.* 114. (*Oxoñ.*)

Preceptum fuit vic' quod distr' Rogerum Chambre et Elizabeth uxorem ejus per omnes terras etc. Et quod de exit' etc. Et quod haberet corpore eorum hic ad hinc diem scilicet in Octab' Sc'e Trinitatis ad cognoscend' quid Juris clam̃ in tercia parte Maneriorum de Broghton t' Northnewton cum pertin quam Thomas Coukes Clericus et Johannes de Keten' Clericus in Curia Regis hic concesserunt Wiłło de Wykeham Episcopo Wynton per finem inde inter eos levatum. Et modo veñ tam predictus Eꝑus per Joh'em Sutton attorñ suum quam predicti Rogerus et Elizabeth in propriis personis suis. Et super hoc iidem Rogerus et Elizabeth pet' auditum brevis predicti. Et eis legitur etc. pet' eciam auditum note unde idem breve emanavit. Et eis legitur in hec verba. Inter Wiłłm de Wykeham Episcopum Wynton quer' et Thomas Coukes Clericum et Joh'em de Keten Clericum deforc' de Maneriis de Broghton Northnewenton Wyvelscote et Stanlake cum pertiñ et de advocationibus Ecclesiarum de Broghton Stanlake et Wyvelscote unde placitum conventiones sum̃ fuit inter eos etc. Scilicet quod predictus Eꝑus recogñ predicta Maneria cum pertiñ et advocaciones predictas esse Jus ipsius Thome. Et pro hac recogñ fine etc. iidem Thomas t' Joh'es concesserunt predicto Eꝑo pred'ca Maneria de Wyvelcote et Stanlake et duas partes predictorum Maneriorum de Broghton et Northnewenton cum pertiñ et advocaciones predictas. Et illa ei reddiderunt etc. Habend' et tenend' eidem Eꝑo de capit' dominis feodi illius per servicia que ad illa Maneria duas partes et advocaciones pertinent tota vita ipsius Eꝑi. Et preterea iidem Thomas t' Joh'es concesserunt pro se et heredibus ipsius Thome quod tercia pars predictorum Maneriorum de Broghton et Northenewenton cum pertiñ quam Rogerus Chambre et Elizabeth uxor ejus tenuerunt in dotem ipsius Elizabeth de hereditate predicte

Thome de quo hec concordia facta fuit. Et que post decessum ipsius Elizabeth ad predictos Thomam et Joh'em et heredes ipsius Thome debuit reverti post decessum ipsius Elizabeth integre remaneat predicto Eꝑo tenend' simul cum predictis Maneriis duabz partibus et advocacionibus que ei per finem istum remanent de capit' dominis feodi illius per servicia que ad illam terciam partem pertinent tota vita ipsius Eꝑi. Et post decessum ipsius Eꝑi predicta Maneria cum pertiñ et advocaciones predicte integre remanebunt Thome de Wykeham fiƚ Wiƚƚi Perot t' Alicie uxoris ejus consanguineo predicti Eꝑi. . . . Oxoñ ff D' Cras' Ascens' Anno r' R' Regis Angl' et ffranc' xv° Dies dat' est eis de caꝑ Cyr' suo in Oct' Mich' quibus auditis pet' quod predc'i Rogerus t' Elizabeth ei inde attornent etc. Et super hoc iidem Rogerus t' Elizabeth ei hic in Cur' inde attornar' et cogñ t' fecerunt ei fidelitatem etc. Ideo finis inde ingrossetur.

CHAPTER X.

A.D. 1544—1604.

WILLIAM DANVERS died on June 20, 1544, and was succeeded by his son John,* who, at the time of his father's death, was nearly twenty years of age.

The years 1544 and 1545 were troublous years to the people of England, for the country, deserted by her Continental allies, was at war with both France and Scotland, the former threatening her southern coast, and the latter her northern border. Great preparations were making for the defence of the country, a large army for the purpose was in course of collection, and Culworth had to bear its share of the burden; for in both these years the parish records show payments for the sending forth of the town-soldier. But the following year England was again triumphant; France was obliged to secure peace by a heavy money-payment; and Scotland, deprived of her ally, was compelled to join in the peace. The King's reign and life were, however, drawing to a close, and in January, 1547, he died. Jealous and vindictive to the last, he had but a few days before his death sent the Earl of Surrey to the block, while Surrey's father, the Duke of Norfolk, was saved only by the death of the King on the very morning appointed for the execution.

The deceased King's reign had opened on a time of prosperity for the middle and lower classes; the country gentleman and the peasant were alike contented and thriving. But the changes which had resulted from Henry's extravagance abroad and at home, and from the measures which he forced upon the country for the relief of his difficulties, while to a great extent they favoured the rich, had brought misery, almost universal, to the homes of the poor. The landed gentry were able to meet the heavy taxes and benevolences which the King levied, for their flocks brought them riches in the shape of the wool, the price of which was steadily rising, and they were able, too, to exact higher rents from their tenant farmers, while many of them largely increased their estates by the grants of church-lands which they received. Nor was it only from church-lands that the gentry about this time added to their private domains, for many of them seized lands which had hitherto been communal and enclosed them, converting into sheep pastures the arable lands, which the poorer classes of the village had hitherto jointly cultivated. The poorer tenants were driven into pauperism, while the yeoman farmer was suffered to remain only upon condition of his paying twice, or even four times, the rent demanded of his predecessors. And this period, so evil for the poor, was for them made worse by the suppression of the monasteries, to which, in hard times, their forefathers had been used to resort for relief. In the year 1536 the smaller religious houses were suppressed, and three years later the suppression of the great monasteries followed. An annual income equivalent to two millions sterling, a very large proportion of which was formerly spent in works of public utility or of charity, was now lost to the poorer classes, and became, for the most part, the prey of the satellites of the Court. And then, a few years later, followed the debasement of the coinage, which raised the price of the necessaries of life; for the debased coin in which the peasants' wages were paid did not buy the amount of bread and clothing which he could purchase in old times. And, following all this, when the monasteries had been robbed, and the coin had been debased, and taxes had been made as heavy as the people could bear, another blow was struck at the industrial classes by the confiscation of the lands of the guilds—religious and commercial institutions which had to some extent organized industry, and had in many ways assisted their poorer members.

---

* Cf. table of descent in Chapter IX.

Such, briefly, were the changes in the affairs of the kingdom which were being felt amongst the country folk of Culworth and other such villages—changes which we find reflected in the history of the Danvers family. Canons Ashby Priory had been dissolved, and the rectory, glebe land, and tithes of Culworth which formerly belonged to it had become the possession of Richard Andrews and John Howe. The prior and his brethren had been pensioned off, and had dispersed, and doubtless not a few of the infirm and sick poor of Culworth had reason to sorrow that the visits of the fathers had for ever ceased.

As regards the current prices of provisions, the parish accounts do not afford material for comparison with those of previous years, excepting in the case of the church ale. The yearly receipts from this source fluctuated considerably; yet, as compared with those of former years, they showed a marked increase. Thus, in the years 1531, 1532, and 1533 the receipts were 18s., 27s., and 30s. respectively; while in the years 1544, 1545, and 1546 they were 43s., 38s., and 41s. This change, it may be assumed, was not due to any increase in the population of the village, nor in the spending powers of the villagers, for notoriously the village populations throughout the country had become impoverished; but the churchwardens had raised the price of the ale in keeping with the rise in the prices of other commodities. Thus it happened that when John Danvers came of age, and took possession of his estate, he and the other landowners in the village, the Gardiners and Watts', were flourishing, but his poor tenants were in no such happy condition.

The estate of John Danvers received an addition during his minority, for we find that the rectory of Culworth, the tithes and the advowson of the vicarage, were transferred by Andrews and Howe, who at the dissolution acquired them, to the custody of Wybert (Hubert ?) Wattes, to hold until John Danvers came of age. In the Patent Roll* of the year 1545 Andrews and Howe, on a payment of 46s. and one halfpenny into the hanaper, had leave to transfer those possessions from Watts to John Danvers and his heirs for ever. This was not the only church property that John Danvers possessed, for he had the farm of Fulwyk, which his grandmother left to his father

* Patent Roll 37 Henry VIII., part x., M. 34 (3).

—the farm which she bought from the Prior of Bradenstoke before, though probably in anticipation of, the dissolution of the house.

In the year 1545 John Danvers came of age, and amongst the Additional Charters in the British Museum, Culworth Series, No. 38886, is the deed of lyvery from the Crown to John Danvers, son and heir of William Danvers, of his father's lands. The deed has attached to it a fine impression of the great seal, and is dated at Westminster, December 6, 37 Henry VIII. On the outside of the deed are the words, 'My grandfather's lyvery.' The writing, as we shall find, is that of John Danvers, grandson of John, the son of William.*

In the year 1550 we find in the parish accounts John Danvers buying stone from the churchwardens. He was probably enlarging his house, and a little later he appears to have been desirous of enlarging his landed estate at his neighbour's expense, following in this respect in the ways of almost all the landholders of the time. Thus we find in the Close Rolls an appeal from some of the freeholders of Culworth to the Bishop of Winchester, then Lord Chancellor, complaining that John Danvers had enclosed divers pieces of Culworth field (the communal lands of the village). Amongst the freeholders who thus complained were Hubert Watts, Thomas Dale, Nicholas Pereson, Thomas Kymble,† whose names constantly appear in the parish accounts, and they complain that John Danvers had not only enclosed this land, but also that he had pulled down an aisle adjoining the chancel of the parish church. The complaint was referred to Sir Edward Peckham and Sir Robert, his son, two of the King's and Queen's Privy Council, for arbitration, which was to be settled before the Feast of the Assumption; but we have not been able to find the record of the award. The aisle was not rebuilt.

We do not know the year of John Danvers' marriage; for though it is on record that his son and heir, Samuel, was born in the year 1550, John had four daughters, of whose ages we have no knowledge, and they may have been older than Samuel. His wife was his third cousin, Dorothy Raynesford, daughter of Sir William Raynesford, of Great Tew.

---

* Additional Charters 38887 and 38888 record purchases of land by John Danvers.

† Close Roll 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, part ix., and 2 and 3 P. & M., 23 March.

The Raynesfords were originally of Raynesford Hall, Lancashire. A certain William Raynesford married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Brockysborne, of Bradfeild; and their son, Lawrence, who was of Raynesford Hall, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Fiennes, Lord Say and Sele, thus giving to the children of John Danvers a second descent from the Fiennes family. John, the son of Lawrence, married Anne, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stokey, and had by her two sons, Henry and Humphrey. Henry, the eldest son, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Wylcotts of Wylcotts by his wife, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Willycots of Tew Magna. William, son of Henry Raynesford, was of Tew Magna, and he married Agnes (or Alice), daughter of John Anne of North Weston, Oxon. They had three sons, of whom the eldest, John, married Alice, daughter of Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse and his wife, Anne Pury. John and Alice had three sons and three daughters, of whom William, the eldest, married Jane, daughter of John Osbaldestone, of Chadlington, Oxon, and had by her one son, Hercules, who married and had issue, and two daughters, of whom Dorothy, the youngest, became the wife of John Danvers of Culworth.

We return for a moment to the third son, George, of John Raynesford and Alice Danvers. He married Catherine Taverner, and had a son, Richard, who was of Drayton, near Daventry, and married Anne, daughter of Thomas Meade (Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 131). Robert, the son of Richard Raynesford, married (1) Georgia, daughter of John Pope of Wroxton, and sister to Susan Pope, wife of Daniel, son of John Danvers; (2) Mary, daughter of Thomas Kirton, of Thorpe Mandeville, and had issue by both wives (*Genealogist*, vol. ii., p. 105, Pedigree of Rainsford). In vol. v. of the Harleian Society's publications will be found the descent of the manor of Great Tew through a succession of heiresses from a very early period to the Raynesford family.* From the Raynesfords the manor passed to Sir Lawrence Tanfield, whose daughter and heiress carried it to her husband, Henry Viscount Falkland. Here lived Lucius, son of Henry Viscount Falkland, and here came the brightest intellects of London and Oxford, Hales, Chillingworth, and others, to the University which Falkland assembled under the oaks and limes of Tew. From the manor house Falkland went forth, loyally but sadly, to fight on the King's side, and to Tew his body was brought after the fatal fight at Newbury. In the church or churchyard the body was buried, but the exact spot was kept a secret, and is still unknown.

The village of Great Tew† is very prettily situated in a well-wooded, undulating country about sixteen miles north-west of Oxford. The village occupies a valley—a ravine one might almost call it—the end of which is closed by the eminence on which once stood the manor house of the Wilcotes, Raynesfords, and Falklands. The old house was pulled down some years back, and its site is now occupied by a modern mansion. At a little distance from the house is the ancient village church, dedicated to St. Michael. The church was originally Norman, and the south doorway is of that style, but the porch is Early English. The nave and some of the windows are of Decorated work, and many alterations, including the addition of the present tower, were made during the Perpendicular period. The font, a fine one, is also Perpendicular. In the wall of the north aisle are two recesses of thirteenth-century work, each containing an altar-tomb. On one of these rests the effigy of a knight in chain armour, and on the other a lady with veil, wimple, and jacket under a long mantle. The knight's effigy is said to be that of a Sir Robert de Vere.

In the centre of the chancel is the fine brass,‡ dated 1410, of Sir John Wylcotts of Wylcotts and his wife, Alice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Willycots. The knight is in plate armour, his head resting on his helmet, the upper part of which, with the crest, has disappeared. Over the figures is a fine canopy, in each spandrel of which appears a hand holding a scroll with the motto, 'In on is al.' The same device and legend are repeated between each line of the verses which form the marginal inscription. Part of the inscription is wanting. That which remains of it is in hexameter verses, and runs as follows:

---

* Patent Roll of A.D. 1332, Sep. 14, Prattelis family and Great Tew.

† 'Beauties of England and Wales,' vol. xii., part ii., p. 459.

‡ Figured in Boutell's 'Brasses.'

'Octobris quinta decima sub luce, sub anno
. . . .
Obsequiis sibi grata nimis nichilo-que molesta,
Matronis speculum, miseris dos, pacis amatrix,
(Exspir) avit Alicia tata,
Ossa dabuntur humo repetebat spirit (us auras).

'Alicia tata'—should the word be read 'tata'? Such it is in the original; but Mr. Parker and others consider the initial letter a mistake on the part of the engraver, and would read the word 'fata.' We, however, venture to think that 'tata' is the word intended. It may be literally translated 'a bringer up,' but having also the same meaning as our English word 'mamma,' and the lines may be translated thus: 'Alicia, a loving mother, died; her bones were committed to the ground, but, happy in herself, and in no way troubled by the approach of death, her soul resought the sky —a mirror for matrons, a blessing to the distressed, a lover of peace.'

The daughter of Alicia and her husband married Henry Raynesford, and the grandson of Henry married Alice Danvers. When Richard Lee made his visitation of Oxfordshire in the year 1574, he found in Tew Church and manor house many memorials of the Raynesfords and Wylcotts. These he copied, and his notes are preserved in one of Anthony à Wood's MSS. (Bodleian, Wood, R.D.), and have been printed by the Harleian Society (vol. v.). Amongst the memorials in the manor house was one of the Raynesford-Danvers match—quarterly Raynesford and Wilcotes impaling quarterly argent on a bend gules three martletts V^t (Brancestre), 2 ermine on a bend azure (?) three chevrons or (Bruley), 3 azure a fess between three swans, argent 4 on a fess between three martletts as many mullets (Pury).

Leland, in his 'Itinerary' (vol. vi., p. 14), which he finished about the year 1540, writes: 'Rainesford of Tewe in Oxfordshire came out of the house of Raynesford of Lancaster. Old Rennesford of Tewe, now alive, is the fourth in descent of the Rainesfordes. The first of them married one of the three daughters of Wilcote,* a knight that was owner of the manor.'

'Old Rennesforde' whom Leland thus mentions was William, son of John Raynesforde and Alice Danvers, and father to Dorothy, the wife of John Danvers. He is the William Raynesford who, with Anthony Cope, Simon Harcourt, Walter Stonor, John Pollard, and others, was ordered, 26 Henry VIII., to inquire concerning abbey lands in Oxfordshire.† We have another notice of him in the year 1554, when he is ordered to set a man in the pillory at Bicester touching lewde wordes by him spoken of the queene's highness.‡ William Raynesford was Sheriff of Oxon in the year 1555.

By his wife, Dorothy Raynesford, John Danvers had a family of two sons, Samuel and Daniel, and four daughters, Temperance, Justice, Prudence and Fortitude. The choice of such names for his children points to the Puritan leanings of the family, and possibly the daughters' names reflect the varying moods of their father's life. His life was but a short one, for he died in August, 1556, at the age of thirty-two, leaving his children in the charge of their mother and her father, Sir William Raynesford, who seems to have had a house in Culworth. Born in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., and dying the year that Cranmer was burnt, and Cardinal Pole was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury, John Danvers in his short life witnessed two social and religious revolutions, and probably in his later days had much need of prudence and fortitude. But what those revolutions meant to Culworth we must leave till the next chapter, when we shall be following the village registers.

---

* For Wilcotes see also Warton's 'Kiddington,' Ashmole's 'Berks,' Hearne's 'Trokelowe,' and Skelton's 'Antiquities of Oxon'—'North Leigh Church.'

† Kennet's 'Parochial Antiquities,' vol. ii., p. 412.

‡ Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., and Fuller's 'Worthies,' edition 1811.

We have both the will* and post-mortem inquisition† of John Danvers. He desires that his body may be buried in the chancel of Culworth Church. He leaves legacies to his four daughters, Temperance, Justice, Prudence, and Fortitude, and provides for his wife, Dorothy, mother of his sons, Samuel and Daniel, and constitutes her their guardian and his sole executrix. To his son Daniel he leaves a charge in money on his estate, certain lands in Culworth, and the lease of his farm at Fulwyk in Wilts. Should Daniel die before he is of the age of 22, leaving no lawful issue, the lease of the farm is to pass to the testator's brother, Thomas, and his heirs, and, failing him, to the testator's eldest son, Samuel. He leaves a legacy to his sister, Mary (subsequently Mary Barker), towards her marriage, and legacies to his sisters, Dorothy Saccheverell and Anne Blount. As overseers to his will he appoints Sir William Raynsford, his father-in-law, his cousin, Sir Walter Hungerford, the son of his aunt, Susan Danvers, and Lord Walter Hungerford, and Sir Richard Fenys, who was also his first cousin, being the son of Edward Fenys and Margaret Danvers.

The will was proved on August 7, 1556, by Sir William Raynsford, acting for his daughter, Dorothy, and Additional Charter 38889, dated November 12, 2 Elizabeth, with impression of the great seal attached, allows Dorothy, widow of John Danvers, to comply with the provisions of her husband's will.

Chancery Inq. P.-M., 3 *and* 4 *Philip and Mary, p.* 1., *No.* 71.
(*Northampton.*)

Inquisition taken at Daventre in Northampton 18 January 3 & 4 Phil. & Mary [1556-57] before Thomas Spencer Esq., Escheator, after the death of John Danvers of Culworth in the said county, Esq. by the oath of Thomas Pelle of Eltyngton gent, &c. &c.

Who say that John Danvers long before his death was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Culworth and of divers messuages, lands & tenements in Culworth & Sulgrave.

---

* Kitchen 11, 1556, Somerset House.

† No. 71, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, part i.

So seised, the said John Danvers made his will as follows:

In order that my will may be the better performed I will that the profits of my manor house of Culworth & the orchards, gardens ponds & closes adjoining the same, to wit, the site of the manor with the wood closes adjoining, the dry close, the clapper close, the close called Inlaidde [or Inlande] the poule hamme and pools, the ancient mill called the nether mylle with the homes thereto belonging, and the new pasture now in the tenure of Sir William Raynesford, Knight, and as many tenantries in Culworth as shall be left when the King & Queen's third part during the minority of my heir shall be fully made, besides such tenements as shall be appointed for my wife's part, shall be employed by my executrix for the use of this my will, & shall so continue for 18 years after my death. The profits of the premises to go towards paying the legacies & bequests to my children. After the expiration of the said term, the said premises to remain to my right heirs by the law. I will that their Majesty's third part during the minority of my heir be appointed in Sulgrave, all my lands & tenements there (except my meadow now in my own hands), all my demesne lands lying in the common fields of Culworth, all the chief rents of the freeholders in Culworth, with wardships, reliefs, heriots & all other services, views of frank pledge, courts & profits of courts, which profits as I suppose amount to a full 3rd part.

I will that my wife have for her dower these parcels following: the tithe grains of Culworth, reserving to my son & heir when he is of age his own tithe corn of his demesnes, and also the giving of the vicarage; the meadows at Sulgrave now in my hands; the closes called the pesfurlong, the meadow at Knightford called the new pole, with the new mill there, Cotton mill with all the appurts as well closes & homes as the yard lome & half bancroft, hemcroft, harowdes houses with appurts & plantes, barn there, 'plantes hole tenement,' Trafford tenements, woodwarde tenementes, Symond Gardyner's tenement, Symond Adams tenement, Wilsons house & yard, the berry close & dove house—provided she commit no waste & do not marry. If she marry, then my son & heir at the age of 24 to enter into all the said premises & to pay to my said wife £20 a year.

If my son Daniel at the age of 22 years cannot quietly receive his said annuity of £4 of his elder brother Samuel & their mother then occupying the tithe corn, he should enter into Bery meade 'lying after the weste broke' in the new pasture & take it to his own use until the said Samuel shall assure him of the said annuity."

The said John Danvers died the 4th day of August last past; Samuel Danvers is his son & heir and at the time of his father's death was aged 6 years & a half.

The manor of Culworth and other the premises in Sulgrave are held of the King & Queen as of their Honor of Pinckney by knights service. The water mill there is held of the said King & Queen in capite by the service of the 100th part of a knights fee: all the said premises are worth per ann., clear, £38. 12s. 6½d.

When John Danvers died, his eldest son, Samuel, was, as stated in the post-mortem inquisition, six and a half years of age. His widow, Dorothy,* married again; her second husband was Sir Thomas Benger,† son of Robert Benger, of Manningford, Wilts. She remained at Culworth, and educated her first husband's children in the manor house. Her own rights in the village, under her husband's will, were not to cease, though she married a second time, until her eldest son was twenty-four years of age. In a deed in our possession, dated February 10, 1577, Dame Dorothy Benger, widow of Sir Thomas Benger, of Culworth, releases to her son and heir, Samuel Danvers, her rights in Culworth which she had from her former husband, John Danvers.

Dorothy's daughter, Temperance, married Anthony Dillon,‡ of Farthinghoe, Northampton, and their firstborn, Danvers Dillon, was baptized at Culworth on June 12, 1569. The next daughter, Justice, married Richard Andrewes,§ no doubt one of their neighbours, the Andrews of Carwelton. The third daughter, Prudence, married William Howell,* son of John Howell, of Ensham. Fortitude, the remaining daughter, died unmarried, and was buried at Culworth in the year 1615. All these members of the family, excepting Fortitude, together with the brothers Samuel and Daniel, are mentioned in a deed of the year 1583, which we shall presently revert to.

---

* In the year 1568 she was still a widow, and signs her name 'Dorothy Danvers,' as a witness to a deed, now in our possession.

† Berry's 'Kent Genealogies,' 228.

‡ Betham's 'Baronetage.'

§ *Vide* Harleian MSS., 1553, pp. 210-214, and 1094, pp. 78-89.

See p. [illegible]
See p. 365

Samuel Danvers, born in the year 1549, was not, under his father's will, to come of age until he was twenty-four, but this provision would not extend to his inheritance of the manors which he held *in capite*, and accordingly in the year 1570 we find, in the Patent Roll of 13 Elizabeth, part v., an entry regarding his coming of age and taking possession of his father's lands. About the year 1576 he married Ann, daughter and heiress of Leonard Pigott,* of Little Horwood and Whaddon, and his wife Margaret, daughter and heir of John Giffard, descended from Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, *temp.* William the Conqueror. In the Patent Roll of 23 Elizabeth, part xi., May, is an indenture between Leonard Pygott and Katherine his wife (second), and Samuel Danvers and Ann his wife, regarding the disposition of the Pigott estates.

---

* Visitation of Oxon, Harleian Society, vol. v., p. 217. But if of Ensham William Howell was also of Packwood, Warwickshire, for in the church there is a monument, dated 1610, to William Howell and Prudence his wife, daughter of John Davers, of Culworth. On it are some verses, of which the following is the first:

'In virtue they bestowed their time,
Amongst the saints of God,
With pietie and godliness,
They made their whole abode.'

One of their daughters, Mary, married Richard Ebrall, whose grandson, William Ebral, had a daughter, Mary, married to Timothy Chambers. Mary, daughter of T. Chambers, married Thomas Jesson, whose daughter Rebecca married Richard Chattock, of Solihull, whose descendants still flourish.

a dau.
of Saml Jesson
m. Tho. Farmer
of Walsall

John Danvers had a younger brother, Thomas, whom he mentions in his will, and who is mentioned in the will of his grandmother, Dame Anne, of Dauntesey. Dame Anne bequeathed £20 to Thomas, son of her son William, to find him an exhibition to put him to school. John was born in the year 1524, and we may place the birth of Thomas between 1526 and 1530. Next, in the year 1556, we are reminded of Thomas by his brother's will, and then we hear nothing more of him or of his belongings till the year 1597, when a boy, Richard Danvers, of Culworth, aged twelve years, is admitted as founder's kin to Winchester College. The boy was born, therefore, in the year 1585, but he is not in the Culworth register as son of Samuel or Daniel Danvers, and when Richard proceeded to New College, as he did in the year 1608, he is called 'of Kempley, Gloucester,' and we may therefore reasonably suppose that his father did not live at Culworth, but that he was entered at Winchester as of Culworth because it was only the Danvers of the Culworth stock who were entitled to the privileges of founder's kin. Now, if Richard were not a son of Samuel or of Daniel Danvers, he must have been the descendant, grandchild, of Thomas, the younger son of William Danvers and Elizabeth Fiennes, otherwise he would not have been founder's kin. Richard Danvers left New College in the year 1612, and the college records know nothing of what afterwards became of him.

In the year 1586 Samuel Danvers bought the manor of Moreton Pinkeny, with its appurtenances, and two years later further added to his landed property.† And it was no doubt in order to make these purchases that in the year 1586 he borrowed the sum of £500 from his brother, Daniel Danvers, on the security of the tithes of corn and grain of Culworth.‡ Five years‡ later he mortgaged to his brother the moiety of the manor of Moreton Pinkeny, and the following year‡ again borrowed money on the security of the tithes.

Samuel Danvers died on February 24, 1599, leaving two sons, Samuel and John, and four daughters, of whom the second, Elizabeth, was baptized at Culworth on June 23, 1583. This is probably the Isabel (Elizabeth) Danvers who in the year 1611 was married in Culworth Church to John Watson. Dorothy, the eldest daughter, was baptized at Culworth on August 3, 1580. Fortitude, the third daughter, was baptized at Little Horwood on February 10, 1588, and the youngest, Temperance, at Culworth in March, 1589.

Additional Charter 38890 is lyvery of his lands to Samuel Danvers; the great seal is attached. On the outside are the words, 'Lyvery of my father.'

The post-mortem inquisition of Samuel Danvers was taken at Towcester April 12, 1599. It details the descent of the

---

* Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 278, and index of vol. iv. for Pigotts and Giffards.

† Patent Roll 29 Elizabeth, part xxii., July, and 31 Elizabeth, part xxx.

‡ Deeds in possession of the writer.

Culworth and Sulgrave manors from his grandfather, William Danvers, and states that Samuel Danvers was seised in his demesne of fee of the rectory of Culworth formerly belonging to the monastery of Canons Ashby; also of the advowson, free gift, and right of patronage of the vicarage of Culworth. The inquisition also narrates the purchase by the deceased of the manor of Moreton from Thomas and John Brickett and Valentine Knightley. Samuel Danvers died on February 24 last past, and his son and heir was Samuel Danvers, jun., aged 21 on September 26 following.

Samuel's widow, Anne, as we learn from her son's inquisition, married Henry Fynche, who, as appears from a deed dated December 2, 1647, was of Kempley, Gloucester.

Samuel Danvers the younger did not long survive his father, dying unmarried in September, 1603. In October of 1594 he and his brother John matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford. Additional Charter, Culworth series, No. 38896, is lyvery under the great seal of his lands to Samuel, son of Samuel Danvers. The deed is dated at Westminster, June 5 of 42 Elizabeth. On the outside are the words, 'My brother's lyvery.' Samuel's post-mortem inquisition is as follows:

Chan. Inq. P.-M., Jas. I., p. 2, *No.* 172. (*Northt.*)

Inq^{n} taken at North'ton 14 July, 2 Jas. I. [1604] before Edward Furthoe Esq. Escheator, after the death of Samuel Danvers Esq. by the oath of Nicholas Fenne &c. who say that long before the death of the said Samuel one William Danvers was seised of the manors of Culworthe Mandevill, Culworth Pinckney & Sulgrave Pinckney. So seised, &c. &c. [as in Inq., 41 Eliz., p. 2, No. 72].

The said W^{m} Danvers died so seised, after whose death the premises descended to John Danvers Esq. his son; after his death to Samuel Danvers Esq. his son (father of the Samuel named in the writ), and after his death to Samuel Danvers (named in the writ) his son who thereupon entered into the same and was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee-tail.

So seised, by indenture of sale made between the said Samuel of the one part and Ralph Buckley of Clements Inn in co. Middlesex of the other part, dated 19 November, 42 Eliz. [1599], in consideration of £1000 paid to him by the said Ralph the said Samuel sold to him (Ralph) the manor of Sulgrave Pinckney with all its rights, members & appurts: to hold to him and his heirs for ever. By pretext whereof the said Ralph entered into the said manor and was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee.

He (Ralph) being so seised, a fine was levied in the Octaves of St. Hillary 42 Eliz. [1600] between the said Ralph Buckley plt., and the said Samuel Danvers junior, John Danvers gent. and Henry Finch Esq. and Anne his wife, deforciants, of the manor of Sulgrave aforesaid by the name of 2 messuages, 2 cottages, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 200 a. of land, 40 a. of meadow, 60 a. of pasture & 2 a. of wood in Sulgrave, whereupon a plea of covenant was summoned between them, to wit, the said Samuel, John, Henry and Anne acknowledged the tenements aforesaid to be the right of the said Ralph as those which he had of their gift &c. &c.: which said fine was levied to the use of the said Ralph Buckley and his heirs for ever.

The said Samuel was also seised of the Rectory and Church of Culworth with its rights & appurts; also of the advowson, gift and right of patronage of the vicarage of the parish Church of Culworth. Also of the manor of Morton [and of all the premises mentioned in the foregoing inquisition in Morton].

Anne now the wife of the said Henry Finch, and formerly the wife of the said Samuel Danvers senior is still alive at Culworthe.

Samuel Danvers (named in the writ) died 15 September last past without issue; John Danvers his brother is his next heir, and at the death of the said Samuel was aged 21 years and more.

Amongst the proceedings in Chancery of the reign of Elizabeth which have been preserved, and are now in the Record Office,* is a petition from members of the family of Danvers of Culworth to the Lord Chancellor, setting forth that they were all, through John Danvers, of the blood and kindred of the late father in God, William Wickham, and asking that their children might be admitted to the privileges of founder's kin at Winchester College and at New College, Oxford. The petition is dated May, 1583, and the individuals who sign it are Samuel and Daniel Danvers, Anthony Dulande (Dillon) and Temperance his wife, Richard Andrews and Justice his wife, William Howell and Prudence his wife, Robert Barker and children of his late wife Mary, Henry Sacheverell and Dorothy his wife, George Blount and Anne his wife. The petition states that Samuel, Daniel, Temperance, Justice, Prudence, Mary, Dorothy, Ann are all lawful sons and daughters of John Danvers of Culworth and William Danvers of Culworth, and therefore of the blood and kindred of the Bishop. The petition then proceeds to trace the descent of Elizabeth Fenys, wife of William, to Agnes, the Bishop's sister. The petition was refused on the score of certain technical objections which the wardens of the two colleges raised, one of them being that the petitioners had not named their children, or shown that they had any who were admissible as scholars; but the descent was not denied, and the document is valuable as a confirmation of the descent of those members of the family who signed it.*

---

* D. d. 7 No. 34.

The name in the petition which to us is of most interest is that of Daniel Danvers, the second son of John Danvers and Dorothy Raynsford, as from him the present family of Danvers trace their descent, and to him we shall return when we have reviewed the first manuscript volume of the Culworth parish registers.

Chancery Proceedings, Elizabeth, D. d. 7, *No.* 34. (7 *May*, 1585.)

Samuel Danvers of Culworth in co. Northampton, Esq., and Daniel Danvers gent., Anthony Dulande, gent., and Temperance his wife, Richard Androwes, gent., and Justice his wife, William Howell gent., and Prudence his wife, Robert Barker gent., on behalf of his sons being infants by Mary his late wife, Henry Sacheverell gent., and Dorothy his wife, and George Blunte, gent., and Anne his wife, complain that whereas William of Wickham sometime Bishop of Winchester founded

---

* A part of the petition is added as an appendix to this chapter.

2 Colleges in Winchester and the same endowed with large possessions, and ordained among other things that his kinsmen should enjoy the special privilege of being admitted fellows and scholars of the said Colleges before all others: And whereas the said Samuel Danvers, Daniel Danvers, Temperance, Justice, Prudence, Mary, Dorothy and Anne are lineally descended of the 'bloude and kynred' of the said Bishop, to wit, the said Samuel, Daniel, Temperance, Justice and Prudence being the lawful sons and daughters of John Danvers of Culworthe, Esq., deceased, son of William Danvers of Culworthe, Esq., deceased and Elizabeth his wife also deceased, and the said Mary late wife of the said Robert Barker, Dorothy late wife of the said Henry Sacheverell, and the said Anne now wife of the said George Blunte, daughters of the said John Danvers son of the said William and Elizabeth, which Elizabeth was daughter of one Richard Fenys of Broughton in co. Oxford Esq., son of Henry Fenys Lord Saye and Seale and Margaret his wife, which Margaret was the daughter and heir of William Wickham Esq. son of Sir Thomas Wickham alias Perrott, knight, son of William Perrotte gent. and Alice his wife which Alice was the daughter of one Champneys and Agnes his wife which Agnes was the daughter of Wickham* . . . of the said Reverend Bishop.

* The lower part of this document is torn away.

CHAPTER XI.

A.D. 1531—1614.

In addition to the parish registers of births, deaths, and marriages, Culworth has preserved a large portion of the parish accounts—a rare piece of good fortune; for as a rule parish accounts, balanced and settled, were destroyed or suffered to perish. The records in question are full of matters of local interest, and they would, in conjunction with the parish registers, the tombstones in the church and churchyard, and the Lay Subsidy Rolls, enable a local historian to trace the rise and fall of the village families since at least the beginning of the sixteenth century.

The Culworth accounts are contained in five volumes, of which the first contains those from the year 1531 to the year 1608, and the names of parish officers till the year 1614. Originally the volume contained one hundred and seventy-four pages, of which, however, some are now missing, while other pages are much mutilated. Unhappily the second volume of the accounts, which carried on the record till the year 1652, is lost. Had it been preserved, we should have found therein many reminiscences of the period of the great rebellion. The remaining four volumes contain the accounts from the year 1653 to the year 1739 inclusive.

The parish was a corporation, and had its officials, the principal of whom were the two churchwardens, who were elected annually by the whole parish. In the early years there is no mention of a vicar's churchwarden, nor, indeed, of the parish priest or vicar, nor is the lord of the manor ever, as such, mentioned. The parish was a republic, and the whole parish voted at the election of its officials. Besides the churchwardens, there were in early times 'church-men' (who were probably the sidesmen), wardens of the church-stock, wardens of St. Christopher's light, wardens of the rood-loft light, torchmen, overseer of highways, constable, town-soldier, young men, cowherd, hogherd, heyward, want(mole)-taker, crow-keeper, and minstrels. Further, belonging to the parish was the church-house,* in which the parish goods, such as the church-ale and the outfit for the parish soldier, were stored. Here the officials of the parish met for business and for feasting, and here the church-ale was sold and the parish accounts were kept.

The parish had its own land on which the barley for the church-ale was raised, and it had also its hay-lands and pastures, on which the cattle, sheep, and swine belonging to the Corporation were tended by the parish herdsmen. The lands seem to have belonged to the parish in its corporate capacity, and were distinct from the common or village field. At the time when the parish records begin, the common land remained entire. Lords of the manor had scarcely as yet begun to encroach upon their poorer neighbours' rights, and the land, according to custom, would be divided into three strips, separated by 'baulks' three or four yards in width. The villagers had all an interest in these strips, one of which was left fallow every year, while on one of the others wheat was grown, and on the third oats and barley, peas and tares. Besides the arable land, there was the meadow-land on which the village hay was grown; but so soon as the hay was gathered in, all enclosures were removed, and the village cattle grazed freely over the land. This 'common land' is, however, to be distinguished from the waste, which was unfit for cultivation, and was free for the pasture of their cattle to all the villagers alike.† The churchwardens controlled the expenses connected with repairs of the fabric of the church and its furniture, and those also which attended upon the public performances and feastings which broke the monotony of the parish life, and were the only sources of public amusement to which the villagers might look forward.

---

* For church-houses see Rev. T. F. Dyer's 'Church-lore Gleanings.' London, 1891.

† Cf. Gibbin's 'Industrial History of England,' p. 116.

The principal revenue of the parish was derived from the sale of the parish ale,* which flowed freely at the parish festivals, and not the less freely because the villagers were instructed that the amount of the Church revenue depended upon the heartiness of their potations. Other sources of revenue were the sale and hire of parish stock,† the proceeds of the sale of wool and hides, rent of the church lands, hire of the parish grindstone, and collections made by the 'young men' at the time of the games and dances which took place around the village cross.

From the accounts we learn that lights were kept burning in the rood loft before the crucifix, before 'the Trinity,' probably an altar so dedicated, and before the shrine of St. Christopher. Also in the accounts we find at Eastertide charges for the sepulchre lights, which were kept burning before the sepulchre from Maunday Thursday till Easter morning. The sepulchre was a temporary structure placed usually in an arched recess in the north wall of the chancel. In it the Host and the crucifix, taken from the altar, were deposited on Maunday Thursday, and were concealed there, but carefully watched night and day, till restored to the altar on Easter morning. Other charges were for candles for the altar and holy-water stoup, and for the 'haesling' or visiting torch, which was borne before the priest when he carried the Holy Sacrament for the houseling of the sick. On Easter eve all these lights were extinguished, and with them the fires in the houses of the villagers, to be rekindled on Easter morn from flint and steel consecrated by the village priest.

To return to the parish accounts. They were no doubt kept after a fashion prior to the year 1531. However, that year the parishioners resolved to revise and amend their system of account-keeping, and accordingly bought a new book, and entered the following resolution upon its first pages: 'Anno Dni M° quīgentesimo tricessimo (primo) Hytt was agred & ordenyd by thassent off y^e^ hole pysshe yn the yere of owr lord god Mccccxxxj that the churchwardeyns & also all other that should have any offyce belongyng unto ye churche that they should make theyr accompte apon the sonday next folowyng the fest of the coversyon off seynt paule the peyn off thys ffor nott kepying off thys day enacty d . . . n^{s} y . . . . r to pay xxd. apese to the churche use & also that all other that have the occupying off any off the church goods shall be p'sent att the same accompte upon the off forfeyttyng off xiid. apese.'

---

* Church ales, cf. Dyer's 'Church-lore Gleanings,' p. 322.

† Parish cattle, *ibid.*, p. 264.

Then, in a different handwriting: 'Hytt was also agreyd by thässent off the hole pyshe in ye yere above reherseyd thatt the wardens off sentt X posser [St. Christopher] shuld kepe the anniversary off henry Thomys upon seynt . . .

Then follow the accounts of the year: Imprimis, for the wintyring of the town bulle 2s. 4d. It^{m} for whytlether and makyng of 3 baldrygs 18d. (The baldrick is the strap of leather by which, on the old plan, the clapper is suspended by its bow from the crown-staple of the bell.) Itm for the makyng off ye bellropps 2s. Itm for the fallyng and cokyng off ye churche barley 12d. Itm for skoreyng off ye canstyche and ye holy water stope 12d. It^{m} for sope 4½d. Itm for the obit of S^{r} Wyllm Halthem 8d. (The obit, mynd, or dyrge was the anniversary service for the repose of the soul of an individual who bequeathed money for the purpose.) Itm for a lantern 6d. Item was spent att the carying off ye churche barley 1½d. Item spent att 3 visitations 12d. Item for makyng off the haesling torch off wax 4d. Item paid to Moulton Parke 4d. (Moulton Park was a royal park, an appanage of Northampton Castle. Certain towns and villages were responsible for the fences—murage—of the park; amongst these was Culworth.) Item for makyng off ye kanstyke before ye trite (Trinity) 2d. Item for makyng off a key for ye steple dore 4d.

The accompte of Nycolas Person and Wyllm Collyer made before the hole pysshe in ye 22 yere of the Reynge off our sovrayn Kynge Henry 8, and Nycholas Person was dyscharged and Symond Gardyner was chosen felow wyt Willym Collyer, and ther remayneth in theyr hands althyngs allowyed £5. 9s. 9d. Next follow the much mutilated account of the receipts of St. Christopher, and of Thomas haulthen's wardens, and then the reseyts off the church men. Imprimis for the church ale

18s. 4d. Item for a cow that John Nycoll hath 2s. 4d. Item for a cow that Ryc^{d} Wodward hath 2s. Item for the grasse off the Crech wey 12d. Item for a bauke off Short Wotthyl 2d., off Shypmarke wey 9d. Item for a flese of wolle 6d. Item for depcombe bauke 2d. Item rece^{d} off Nycolas Hulle 3 stryke off barley, yt was hys father's [figures lost, as are those also of the following receipts] for Corncroft, pysforlong wey, a bauke in hempe crofte, off the torchmen, off the hobye-horse nyght. Next follows an entry that Symon Adams and Nycolas peerson were made wardens of the town stock, and that xxs. xixd. was delivered into their hands.

Then follows a series of entries which relate to the founding and purchase of a new bell for the church. The church men travelled with a cart and horse by way of Lutterworth to Leicester, where, at the time, Thomas Betts had his foundry. As early as the fourteenth century John de Stafford had a bell-foundry at Leicester, and was followed by others, of whom Betts was one. Betts was Mayor of Leicester in 1529, and is styled in the Roll of Mayors, Bellfounder of Allsaints and ancestor of the Newcombes. Betts died in 1538, leaving his property to Robert Newcombe, who had married his daughter. No. 4 of the present Culworth Church peal was made in 1612 by Newcombe, of Leicester.

The size of the new bell is not given, and the number of pounds of metal paid for has been torn away; but the church men took with them 15 pounds of their own metal, for which 22½d. was allowed, and they paid 10s. 4d. to the founder for new metal, which was possibly charged at the same price as the old. On this assumption, the new bell would have been a small one, of about 100 pounds in weight, and 14 or 15 inches in diameter.*

Fyrst at lutterworth ffor ale 1d. Item at lecettar the fyrst nyght 5d. Item our dynr on the next day 10d. Item a soper for the workmen 1s. Item ale for the labourers 2d. Item 2 cart clowts 2d. Item for ale in oure chamber att nyght 2d. Toward a pere of shoys for shreve 5d. Workmen for ye mornyng 2d. Workmanship off ye bell £3 . . . pod off hys own metall 10s. 4d. Workmanshyppe off 15 pod off oure own metall 22½d. For parchment for our obligation 2d. Reward for the servants 4d. Ale when we dyd lode 2d. Horse mete 22d. Day journeying homeward 4d. Taking down off ye belle 8d. Hangyng off ye bell 2s.

---

* Thorold Rogers ('History of Prices') states that the cost of bell-metal at the period was 4d. the pound, and if so, the bell must have been half the above-stated weight.

The accounts which follow the above are, until the year 1535, mutilated and disarranged. Those for 1535 are as follows: Payments of the Church-men. Fyrst for whytlether 12d. For makyng off the vysyting torch 7d. For fallyng off ocks in yard 7d. For working off hempe for bellropps 10½d. For fallyng and cokyng off ye hadlonds (the strip of grass at either end of a ploughed field on which the plough turns) 10d. For bred and ale att ye sowyng off the . . . 4d. Spent at 2 vyscitations 8d. For mendyng off the handbell 4d. For a lock and keye for a cofer 4d. For trussing up off ye fore bell and ye thyrd bell 6d. For ynkle (braid or tape) for gyrdells 3d. For sope and starch and for ye clark's yernyst 3d. For mendyng off baudryggs 4d. Sm̄ 6s. 10½d.

Receipts 1535. Bauke at Chymsware 1d., at Turfynch 1d., att Grenweys yard 1d., at Hempcrofte 1d., at Pysforlong wey 1d. For belropps ends 10d., for barke 20d., for a cow hyde yt dyed 3s. 11½d., ye hyer of a barenge cow 6d., 4 shepeskyns 12½d. Fourth payment of Willm Lovell and ye last 11s. Sum £4 11s. 4½d.

Payments off ye town stocke. Ffyrst for ye scowrynge off ye harnesse 12d., for dressyng off a sword 2d., for ye parchment off ye swererynge 2d., for a dagger sheth 1d., for makeing off ye bille before ye Justys 4d., Ffor ye yernyste for ye heyward and ye herd 2d.

Res. off ye lyght wardens, for ye hobby-horse dawnse 3s. 2d. Payments. Agenst Estr ffor wax and makyng 3s. 1d.

Res^{d} off X possers (Christopher's) men, ffirst for hyer of cow 2s., for a sheps felt 5d., for 2 pound of wolle 10d. Payments. Ffor three pods off wax 2s. Ffor three pods of weke 3d. Ffor henry Toms dyrge 1d.

The acompt off Thoms Wyon and Randall Jenkenson wardes off seynt X possers lyght made ye day and yere above seyd and yr remaynth yn yr honds off ye old stock and ye new althyngs alowyed xxs. iijd.

As regards the names of fields many of them such, as Nole Hill, Woad Ground, Hemcraft, Rye Hill, Plank Mead, Flax Ground, Jewsharbour, Bankcroft, Peas Furlong, are in present use at Culworth.

It will be observed that a portion of the equipment of the town-soldier was kept in stock, and in the year 1536 we find him fitted out and despatched on duty, probably in consequence of the insurrection in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire—'the Pilgrimage of Grace.' The payments on the occasion are as follows:

Whyte cote for hys cote, 16d.; for a horse, 8s.; for a brydyll and spoure and a gwrth, 7½d.; for a gurdyl and ale at ye settyng forth, 2d.; for a new helvynge (handle) off ye byll, 3d. The soldier had with hym toward ye costes, 6s. 8d.; for a pere of bots, 18d.; for mendyng of hys sallet (helmet) and hys sadle, 3d.; for 3 yards of canvass, 15d.; for lynynge off hys dublet, 11d.; for a lether skyne for a gerke (jerkin), 10d.; for a dozen off poynts (laces), 3d.; for makyng off hys cote, 4d.; for makyng off hys dublet and jerkin, 8d. He had to hys costes at home 2d.

The following year, also for the soldier, a sheffe of arrowys, 4s. 8d.; a saddle, brydell, gurths, sturrup lethers, 4s. 6d; a chape to the swerd, 2d.; dd to the soldyer, 6d.; for a bowe, 2s. 4d.; for a horse, 18s. 10d.; for the soldiers mony, 8d.; to Wodward for caryeng the harnesse, 4d.; for a sword gyrdle, 2½d.; for a dosen of poynts, 1½d.; for a dager, 6d.

The soldier appears to have been armed with sword, bill, and dagger, and with bow and arrows. The latter was still the favourite weapon of the English foot-soldier, and the statutes enforced the practice of archery upon every individual not exempt owing to infirmity. Only some twenty years previously the battle of Flodden Field had been mainly won by the skill and bravery of the English archers; nor was it till towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth that the people were allowed to shoot as they listed, and with such weapons as suited their pleasure.

In the year 1533 there is a receipt of viijd. at the burial of a child of Mr. Danverse. The same year occurs a charge of 3d. for making a Rochett, and of 5s. 8d. for binding the 'Antyphon,' the antiphoner or book in which was collected all that was sung or said in the choir excepting the lessons. Other entries are payments for the 'kyng's caryge'; for the sovereign had an ancient right, and one freely exercised till the time of Charles II., of 'purveyance' for himself, his family, and of officials when on his business.

In the year 1536 fourpence is paid as earnest at 'ye serchynge for the church goods'—a search which, as Culworth was a living in the gift of the Priory of Canons Ashby, was probably made under the Order in Council of this year for the visitation of all conventual institutions.

In the year 1537, 3s. 8d. is charged for a vayle cloth, and 3s. 8d. for painting the same, while 3s. 3d. is charged for paynting ye cloth for ye hygh altar, and 3s. for paynting of the hoby horse clothes. In the year 1540 is entered 'my lade bequest' 6s. 8d. This is the half mark which Lady Danvers (Anne of Dauntesey), who died in the previous year, bequeathed to Culworth Church.

In the year 1543 is a charge of iiijd. for settynge upp off ye table of the hyghe altar, and 3s. 2d. for workmanship of ye tymber of ye vestry, and for the byble 10s. The following year a byble is again charged for, and the price is 12s.

The setting up of the high altar, the building of the vestry, and the purchase of the Bible for the church, all tell of the ecclesiastical changes which were taking place in the kingdom. The Priory of Canons Ashby, to which the rectory and the advowson of Culworth Church belonged since the end of the thirteenth century, had been recently dissolved, and the rectory, with its tithes, had been granted to Richard Andrewes and John Howe, who the following year made over their rights to John Danvers. The purchase of the Bible and its introduction into the church was in consequence of the publication in April, 1539, of the 'Great Bible,' the work of Myles Coverdale, which was authorized to be used and frequented in every church in the kingdom. The price of the unbound Bible was officially fixed at 10s., and of one bound and trimmed and clasped at 12s. We note another change this year. Formerly 6s. 4d. was the charge for wax and workmanship for candles at Easter, but we find this year, 'for talow canayll for Ester day mornynge 1d.' But then the entry above this runs, 'Payde to ye xvth 13s. 3d.,' and in the previous year we have, 'Ffyrst payd for the xvth peny iij^{li} iiij^{s} ix^{d}.' Tallow in the place of wax must suffice for God's house now that the village has to send away money to pay for the King's wars, and for the magnificent living of himself and of his court.

In the year 1545, 10s. is paid for the casting of the sanctus-bell, and eightpence for three rochetts. Probably the so-called rochetts were surplices for the priest; for the rochett was then, as now, worn only by a bishop. Another item is for 'mendyng a surplys,' twopence. For a gryndell-stone three and eightpence is paid, and fourpence 'for fetchynge off it.'

The following year 10s. is paid to 'Master Davers for a harnes' (the soldier's armour), and four marks is paid as a subsidy to the King. Twopence is paid for lace for the canopy. In the year 1547, for a sheaf of arrows the charge is 2s. 4d., and for a gallon of ale fourpence.

About this time* the accounts were not fully kept, or parts of them have been lost. In the year 1554 the outgoing churchwardens deliver to their successors two diapered and two plain cloths, six surplices, eight tablecloths, the Bible, Homily-book, and Communion-book, the latter no doubt a book of the office for the use of the priest at the altar. It is not till the year 1558 that we have again a full account of the receipts and expenditure of the parish.

In the year 1554 is the first record of administration of the communion in both kinds (authorized in 1547): 'The vykar must fynd us wyne and bread till Saint Andreys daye.'

In the year 1558 (last year of Queen Mary's reign), besides the annual charge for making the 'bawdryckes' for the church bells, we find a charge of twopence for a 'gyrdell' for the vycar, and other charges which show that the old religious customs were again practised. Thus sixteenpence is charged for a holy-water stocke (stone or stoup), two shillings and twopence for wax for the sepulchre lights, and tenpence for

---

* From the year 1549 to 1557 inclusive.

'betynge' candles. These 'betynge candles' were probably the tapers used for lighting the candles at the altar and on the rood-loft and before the sepulchre, and the name is derived, no doubt, from the old English word 'beit,' or 'bete,' to improve, to restore, or to kindle. The glazier is paid three shillings and fourpence for work in the church.* In the year 1564 occurs the first charge for 'brede and wyne'—fifteenpence only for the whole year. Subsequently the charge is an annual one. In the year 1565 appears a charge of two shillings and fourpence for 'goon powder,' and we may therefore assume that the town-soldier was now armed with a matchlock in the place of a bow. The following year sixteenpence is paid towards the cost of 'a byble and communyon boke,' twelvepence for stone to pave the church, and two shillings for laying the same. In 1567 twenty-two pence is paid to the herd for killing five dozen and a half 'wantes' (moles), and twopence to Ketche for mending the seats of the church. The collections by the young men are on May-day six shillings and eightpence, and at Whytsuntide sixteen shillings, and no mention is made of any sale of the church ale; indeed, regular annual receipts from that source had ceased for about ten years. In the year 1568 there are two separate charges for mending the stocks—testimony to one of the crying evils of the day, vagabondage, which, despite the severe laws against it, was greatly on the increase. Discharged soldiers and sailors, labourers whom the formation of large farms had thrown out of employ, gave plenty of work to the parish beadle, the stocks, and the cage.

In the year 1568 (1569?) the parish subscribes twenty shillings to a lottery. Lotteries had been carried on in the country since the year 1567, and must have been in very general favour, or we should not have a country parish investing more than one-half its annual receipts in this way. We do not find any entry of receipts from the lottery, so the parish drew a blank. In the year 1569 we have amongst the accounts a reminder that the year was a memorable one, the year of the rising of the Roman Catholic party in the North in the interest of the Papacy and of Mary Queen of Scots. The insurgents marched to Tutbury, where the Queen was imprisoned, but failed in their enterprise, as the Queen had been removed to Coventry, and the delay that consequently occurred gave time for the arrival of Queen Elizabeth's levies from the South. Of these no doubt were the soldyers on whose settyng forth the parish expended fourteen shillings. At the same time six shillings was delivered to the Carters at their 'gooying furth.' Either the carts carried the soldiers, or more probably were levied to transport the baggage of the Northamptonshire militia. Early in the next year two shillings and fourpence is paid for a sword, twelvepence for a dagger, and thirteen shillings and fourpence for a horse for the soldier. The same year twenty-eight shillings and eightpence is paid as the price of the town bull.

---

* The dates are not given, but the entries are four in number: for brede and wyne, 6d.; for wyne, 3d.; for bred and wyne at Crystemas, 4d.; for wyne, 2d.

In the year 1570 two books are bought for the church. Of these one is the 'boke of Iniunccyons' (book of injunctions), for which eightpence only is paid; the other book is 'Mr. Jowells,' which cost nine shillings and tenpence. The injunctions were first issued in the year 1547, and, eleven in number, were directed against the superstitions of the people and the negligence of the clergy, the worship of relics, the offering at the shrines of saints of candles or tapers, the use of beads in prayer, pilgrimages to shrines. The rood-loft and other lights, excepting those upon the high-altar, were forbidden. The clergy were enjoined to preach at least once a quarter, and to see that an English version of the Bible was set up in their churches. Morning and evening service, creed and prayers to be said in English, and a homily to be read every Sunday. Only one mass was to be celebrated in each church, but that daily, and at 9 a.m. Shrines and their coverings, pictures and paintings in the churches were to be destroyed. On the accession of Queen Mary the injunctions became void; but in 1559, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, other injunctions, founded on those of 1547, were issued, and no doubt it was a copy of them which was bought for Culworth. 'Mr. Jowells boke' was 'the Apology for the Church of England' of Bishop Jewel, which was first published in the year 1562. It was translated into English by Lady Bacon, wife of Lord Keeper Sir Nicholas Bacon, and was ordered to be read and chained up in all parish churches.

In the following year threepence is paid for a book of the degrees of marriage, and sixteenpence for a paper of the commandments. In the year 1572 sixteenpence is paid to the Ryngers when the Quenes grace came to Edgecote; also three shillings is paid to John Gardener when he wynt to serve the quene with his cart, and five shillings is paid for pece (peas) for the quene—presumably for the Queen's horses. All this refers to a little bit of history elsewhere unwritten. Edgcote is the parish which marches on the west with that of Culworth, and the respective churches are about a mile and a half apart. Thomas Cromwell, Vicar-General to Henry VIII., and afterwards Earl of Essex, bought Edgcote in the year 1535 from Sir Edmund Bray. Cromwell appears to have enlarged the old manor house, adding, amongst other offices, a famous kitchen. On his execution in the year 1540, Edgcote escheated to the Crown, and was given in dower to Ann of Cleves. Ann, in the year 1543, sold her rights in the property to William Chauncey, of an old Northampton family. William—or Sir William, as he became—died in the year 1585, and was, with his wife Joan, buried in the church beneath a fine alabaster altar-tomb, on which their effigies recline. This William Chauncey was, therefore, the Queen's host when the bells of Culworth rang their welcome to her. It was this year that the Queen made one of the most famous of her progresses.* On August 12 she was received at Warwick, and thence she passed to Kenilworth, where she was magnificently entertained by the Earl of Leicester. From Kenilworth she returned by Warwick to Compton, where she rested at Lord Compton's, and thence she journeyed to Banbury, and thence to Woodstock, where she was on August 24. Now, Edgcote is only some four or five miles from Banbury, and it is probable that thence the Queen rode out to Edgcote. Her Majesty had a double interest in the place. It had belonged to Ann of Cleves, and earlier had been the home of Cromwell, who was mainly instrumental in placing the Queen's mother, Ann Boleyn, upon the throne. He it was who, after Wolsey's fall, counselled the King to cut the knot of the divorce which he sought, by declaring himself supreme head of the Church of England.

---

* See Nichol's 'Progresses of Queen Elizabeth.'

In the year 1576 Culworth Church must have been very thoroughly whitewashed, for whereas the usual charge on this account was but a few pence, this year it was as much as six shillings; a penny, too, was paid for a stryke of glovers shreds, which no doubt were used in the preparation of size for the whitewash. Not improbably the religious teaching of the day had roused the churchwardens to hide from the view of the worshippers the rude frescoes on the walls of the church which had comforted and taught their forefathers.

The same year appears a charge of fourpence for carrying money to Collyngton Haven—part no doubt of a collection for the defence of the southern ports in anticipation of war with Spain.

This year also there is a charge for 'cappes' at Brackley, and a few years later 'cappes' for the Commissioners are paid for. Probably the Culworth scribe intended to write 'capes,' as the plural of 'cape,' a judicial writ; or perhaps 'capeats' may have been intended.

In the year 1579 charges for several repairs about the church give an idea of the cost of wages and materials at the time. The 'plummer' gets five shillings for five days' work, and is paid eightpence a pound for 19½ pounds of 'soder.' Two strykes of lime cost sevenpence. Eighteenpence is charged for 'wood to make fyre for the plummer,' and the mason is paid eight shillings and sixpence for paynting the steple. Half a hyde of white leather for the baldricks is charged eighteenpence. There is the annual charge for the ryngers on saint hewy's day (Queen's accession). Eightpence is paid to 'a straunge man whyche gethered for the reparying of a churche.' Next year amongst the payments is one of five shillings leid owt to the menestre, probably a special preacher.

In the year 1583 John Gardiner is paid three shillings for serving the Queen with his cart, and five shillings is paid for peas for the Queen.

At this period the parish had begun to sell the malt made from the parish barley instead of brewing therewith the church ale, and the officials received for ten strikes the sum of nine shillings and eightpence.

In the year 1583 threepence is paid for the Book of Articles —the Articles no doubt which were revised by Convocation in the year 1571, and subsequently translated into English and set forth by authority.

About this period entries are very frequent of small sums paid to poor men and women, or to gatherers collecting for the support of the poor. Evidently vagabondage and pauperism were very much on the increase, and shortly after this a law was passed which obliged each parish to provide for the impotent, and to find work for the able-bodied, while indiscriminate alms-giving was forbidden under pain of severe punishment. As for the beggar, he fared ill; if caught he was whipped the first time, his ears were cropped the second, and death was the penalty for a third offence. In the time of Elizabeth collectors—the 'gatherers' probably of the register—asked each man and woman what they could give, and in case of refusal handed the recusant over to the Bishop to be dealt with. In the year 1573 the power of compulsory assessment was given to the Justices, and 'abiding-places' (poor-houses) were ordered to be provided for the aged and infirm.

In 1588 thirty-three shillings is paid for a Bible, and now for the first time occurs a note of the payment 'by strangers at a Comūnyon xvj^{d},' and, again, 'payed by Mr. Howell and others at Comonyon ix^{d}.'* This is the Armada year, and there are entries of two shillings for gyrdles for the souldyeres, and three shillings for gunpowder.

Greatly changed are the sources of the parish income in 1589 as compared with those of thirty years before. Now there are no receipts from Whitsun or church ales, and even the collections by the young men at the village cross and church-house have ceased. But, though the church lands are fewer in number, those that remain pay better rents than of yore. Grass is sold for 15d.; 26s. 8d. is the rent of the towne headlands, on which in the old times the church barley was grown. And 12s. 3d. is received from strangers which died comūnicate, and a new item of income is 2s. 1d. from John yeamans for Bancrofte forde, probably a toll levied at the ford.

---

* William Howell married Prudence, daughter of Samuel Danvers.

Amongst the payments this year (1589) is 9d. to Daniell Dāvers for a piece of timber, and viijd. is paid on one occasion for wynne for Communion, but no-bodye came and therefore the wyne was given to Mr. King. So the name reads, but the name may be Knight, and Mr. Knight was vicar of the parish at the time.

In 1591 we have a list of the church goods as follows: Com̃ cup and cover, 7 pieces of lynen and one bucorum cover for ye com̃ table.

The rent of the parish land is advancing, and 50s. is the sum paid this year for the church headlands.

Five poor men receive alms, one of them coming with a lysence from my lorde Admyrall. Sixpence is paid for the Queen's injunctions, and for a tithing table, and for the bishop's articles 2s. 10d. is the charge. A gathering man receives 6d., and another who did gather for the Queen's bench 3d.

This year for the first time the minister in his official capacity is recognised. The churchwardens give up their reckonings in the presence of 'ye minister and pishioners,' and the incoming churchwarden is chosen by them jointly.

In 1593 the minister chooses one churchwarden, and the old churchwarden remains with the consent of the rest of the parishioners present.

At the Bishop's visitation 6d. is 'layd out' for a Prayer-book and as much for the Articles, and sixpence also for the Bishop's prayer. The dinner of the churchwardens and the sidesmen at the same time cost 3s.

Four shillings and eightpence is paid for a Book of Common Prayer (which must have been the revised book of the year 1559, with perhaps the new calendar and the few verbal alterations which were made some three years later).

1595. The church headlands are let to Mary Frankelen for forty-nine shillings and eightpence, and two shillings is received for grass. This year, or possibly the following year, is an account of 'the recetes of James Stockley (churchwarden) for the grete bell.' Master Samuel Danvers heads the list, paying 20s. This is followed by Master Kirton, who pays 12s.; and he by Master 'dannell danvers,' who pays 5s. Other parishioners pay more than Daniel Danvers, but are not honoured with the title of 'Master.' Thus, we have Wylliam garner 10s., and Thomas Watts 13s. 4d. Edward lely and Robard Shrefe pay 6s. each. Altogether there are forty-one payments, the smallest subscription in the parish being 1s. The total sum collected was £8 19s. 8d., and £9 was paid to the bell-founder.

In 1597 is a curious entry: 'M^d, yt whereas John Wattes pad but 5s. for ye buryell of his father in ye churche the reason ys for yt he payd for pavynge or closynge up of ye ground agayne.' John Webbe the same year pays 6s. 8d. for the burial of his father.

The laying out for bred and wyne at Easter has steadily increased. In the year 1564 it was but 6d. In 1566 the amount is 3s. 4d.; in 1574, 3s. 8d.; in 1589 the payment is 6s. 8d., and now it is 9s. 2d. There are twenty-two payments for briefs and to poor men and women; 14s. for a pulpit, and 3s. to the smith for an hour-glass stand.

The receipts of the parish in the year 1597 amounted to £5 10s., and include as much as 26s. for grasse. The headlands pay 49s. 10d. The levy of 2d. on the yardland produced 9s. 2d. There are no less than twenty-three payments for briefs, and to gatherers and to poor men; and as the case of Culworth exemplifies what was going on throughout England, the need for an amendment of the poor laws must have been very pressing.

In the record of the year 1598 occurs a note that 'Mr. Daniell Danvers hath institutions of Calvin.' Delivered the said booke to the churchwardens by the said Danyell Danvers in Easter week, 6s. 7½d. This year also the churchwardens bought the paraphrases of Erasmus.

In the year 1602 twelvepence is paid to a 'man who came to see whether the church were well,' and sixpence is paid 'to the woman that did the churche.' The following year a rate was levied for the repair of the church, and another of a groate a yardland for 'Jenevye.' This and a subsequent rate, when the name is correctly spelt 'Geneva,' were probably levied for the support of Protestant refugees in that city.

In the year 1604 we find 'a levy for breade and wine, a penny everyone yt touche the communion.' Sixty-two parishioners pay, very few paying so little as a penny. Twelve shillings and ninepence is the amount collected.

During the years 1606 and 1607 sixpence is paid for a book of the Articles, eightpence for a Book of Common Prayer, sixpence for a Prayer-book for the King, probably the form of prayer for November 9. For a book of Juell and Harding (Bishop Jewell's reply to Harding, the Roman advocate) seven shillings and sixpence is paid. The same year eighteen shillings and ninepence is paid for a 'sans bell,' and two shillings and eightpence for the cost of hanging it. Twelvepence is paid to John Wygson for a day's work laying tiles. Ten shillings is paid for paving the church, fifteen shillings and eightpence for glazing, and seven shillings for a cover for the font. The following year, 1608, which is the last year of accounts entered in the first volume, Daniel Watts and Richard Kimbell are churchwardens, Robert Hitchman and John Brath are sidesmen, Robert Wigson and Richard Boswell overseers of highways. Ten shillings is this year paid for a cloth for the communion table. Bread and wine for communion are charged for on two occasions, respectively four shillings and eightpence and ten shillings and sixpence.

About this time—the record does not with certainty fix the date—ten pounds is paid to the bell-founder for a new bell. Probably this was in the year 1612, when a bell was cast for the church by Newcombe of Leicester. The receipts this year were: From the church headlands, £4 6s.; from the grass, 17s.; from two levies of 2s. a yardland, £13; from others that had no land, 14s.; from sale of the bell clapper, 6s.

At the end of this, the first volume of the parish accounts, appears a note of 'such books as appertaine unto the Churche of Culworth':

Imprim̃is a Bible.
It. ā olde Bible.
It. a comō prayer booke.
It. the first booke of the Homilies and the injūctions.
It. the seconde.
It. Calvin's institutions.
It. Erasmus paraphrases.
It. The booke of articles.*

---

* Church libraries, cf. Dyer's 'Church-lore Gleanings,' p. 284.

Beneath the list is written:

> 'Bewty is Subiect unto age sickness the same will staine
> And whoso whithered is in yeares cannot be younge again.'

*ORDYNAUNCYS AND RULES to be kepte wythin the Towne & feldes off Culworthe by the inhabytantes dwellers & occupyers of the same vpon such paynes for the offendours as ys hereafter named made heretofore from tyme to tyme by the assent of the hoole homages of courtes & lawe days of the towne of Culworthe afforesaid for y^e^ punyshyment of wronge doers in grasse & corne & all others ways in y^e^ parishe of Culworthe.

In primis yt ys ordeyned & agreed by thole consent afforeseid that no dweller shall occupye any moo then iiij bestes for one yard lond vpon payne to hym that shalbe found fawtye therein for every beast ij^{s}.

Item yt ys agreed lykewyse that none shall kepe for one yard lond any moo then forty shepe vpon payne to hym yt ys fautye for euery shepe—xij^{d}.

Item that none take in agystment [to graze for a weekly payment] any bestes (excepte oxen for y^{e} ploughe & kyne for the paylle) vpon payne of euery beste contrary—xx^{d}.

Item that euery lambe stand for a shepe from martylmas forward vpon payne of xx^{d} for euery hoggerel [a sheep in its second year].

Item that no fold of shepe remayne on y^{e} corne ryll (trench?) after myhelmas daye vpon payne for euery nyght the offendour to paye—vj^{d}.

Item that no fold come wythe in y^{e} herdes hay beffore lammas vpon payne for euery nyght contrary—vj^{d}.

Item that none havynge straunge shepe to fold shall lett them lye ab. . . out of y^{e} yarde close or housse after candelmas vpon payne for euery weke—xl^{d}.

Item none that taketh in to fold straunge shepe shall have together in one flocke above eyght score vpon payne for every shepe above—xij^{d}.

---

* The original (now in possession of the writer) was found amongst a number of ancient Culworth deeds. It is not dated, but the handwriting and internal evidence fix its age at about that of the earliest of the parish accounts, *i.e.*, 1531.

Item that none shall putt in to any brokes lakes ryvers or other waterynges any hempe or flaxe to be watred there vpon payne of euery offence to y^{e} contrary—vj^{s} viij^{d}.

Item that none take in agystamentes any coltes vpon payne for euery colt—xx^{d}.

Item that none fold hys shepe from S. Thomas thappostells daye vnto our lady day in lent vpon payne for euery nyght —xl^{d}.

Item that none kepe above iiij mares or jades & one breder for a ploughe vpon payne for euery one—v^{s}.

Item that none shall encroche vpon y^{e} balkes & merys (marks) vpon payne for euery tyme—xl^{d}.

Item that none lave for fyshe wthout lycens of y^{e} lord in y^{e} brokes or ryvers vpon payne of—ij^{s} for euery tyme.

Item that none suffer their horsys or mares to goo at large wthin y^{e} fallow feld from holyrode day tyll hervest be done vpon payne for euery tyme—xl^{d}.

Item that euery man shall tye hys coltes after relyque sonday vpon payn for euery colt—xx^{d}.

Item that no man shall tye or kepe his cattell (in y^{e} corne feld) vpon any other mannys ground then hys owne beffore lammas daye vpon payn for euery tyme—xx^{d}.

Item that euery hogge goyng abroode be rynged affore S. Lukes daye & then so to be kept y^{t} wynter vpon payne for euery hogge contrary found—vj^{d}.

Item that none lease corne wythin y^{e} furlonges of the feld beffor hervest be don vpon payne—xij^{d}.

Item that none kepe ther cattall behynd y^{e} hylls in y^{e} corne feld but wythin y^{e} syght & vew of y^{e} towne vpon payne for euery tyme contrary doynge—iiij^{d}.

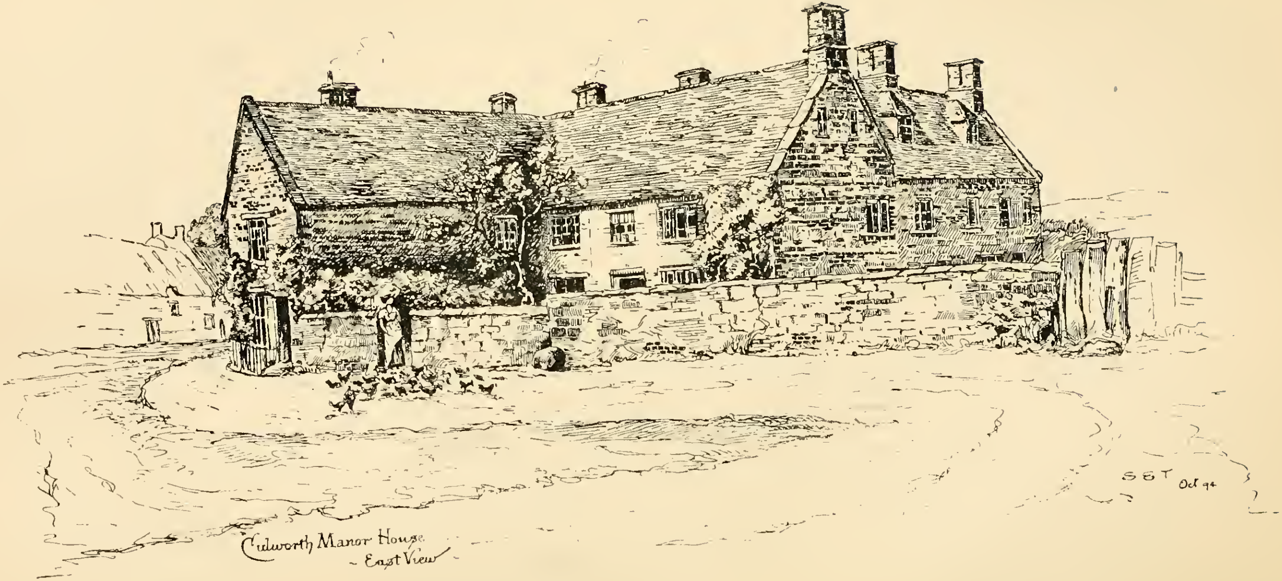
Item y^{t} no dwellers at Coton kepe their catall but affore y^{e} com̄ hurd vpon payne of xx^{d} for euery tyme.

Item y^{t} none kepe hys cattall in hervest beffore the hurd hath entred yn (except hyt be in hys owne ground) before lammas vpon payn for euery tyme—iiij^{d}.

Item that every man (vpon a day apoynted) be redy to sett merys (marks) stakes & stones & them to sett euery furllonge wythin y^{t} feld to renewe & repayre euery yere vpon payne to hym y^{t} ys awey for euery day so appoynted eyther in y^{e} court or in y^{e} churche or other place by generall agrement—xij^{d}.

Item y^{t} euery man after they come home from folowynge y^{e} crosse on crosse monday be redy w^{the} eyther spyttyll spade shoulle or other spade & deuyde (divide) them selues by ij. & ij. in all y^{e} feldes over vntyll nyght to dystroye molles nestes vpon payne to hym y^{t} ys awey iiij^{d}.

Item y^{t} all inhabitauntes helpe euery wytson weke to mend hye ways moost nedefull to be amendyd to be apoynted & ordred by y^{e} oversyght of y^{e} constable townesmen therdborows of y^{e} towne and suche other at their dyscrecyons vpon payne to suche as refuse to helpe therunto so muche as shalbe thought good by thoffycers afforseid—xl^{d}.



Culworth Manor House
– East View

CHAPTER XII.

A.D. 1554—1700.

Daniel Danvers, second son of John Danvers,[*] of Culworth, and his wife, Dorothy Raynesford, was born about the year 1554, two years before his father's death, and, with his elder brother, Samuel, and his sisters, Temperance, Justice, Prudence and Fortitude, was brought up under the guardianship of his mother and her father, Sir William Raynesford, in Culworth manor house. The fabric of the present house is no doubt substantially that of Daniel's boyhood, and thence the children looked out upon the village games which at certain seasons were still celebrated upon the adjacent green. For though, as Harrison tells us, 'superfluous numbers of idle-wakes, church-ales, help-ales, and dirge-ales, with their heathenish rioting, were well diminished,' yet we learn from the parish records that at Eastertide, Whitsuntide, Bartholomewtide, and on May-day, 'the young men' still made collections for the church at the games around the village cross.

Nor would the education of the children be neglected, for the schoolmaster was abroad in those days. The example of the late King, Edward VI., and of his royal sisters, had influenced the courtiers of both sexes, and we are told of them that 'there are few which have not the use and skill of sundry speeches, besides an excellent vein of writing, beforetime not regarded.'[†] Grammar-schools, too, were being generally provided for the use of the middle classes, and amongst them was a notable one at Banbury and another at Thame. Doubtless 'Stanbridge's Grammar' and 'Colet's Accidence' were books not unknown in the Culworth house. Banbury Grammar School* was at the time in great reputation, and it is very possible that Daniel Danvers received his education there, under the eye of his relatives at Colthorpe House and Broughton Castle, and in a puritanical atmosphere which, if we read the history of the family aright, was one congenial to its members, and one which early in life made a lasting impression upon Daniel's mind.

---

[*] Table of descent in Chapter IX.

[†] Harrison's 'Elizabethan England.' Furnivall's edition.

Born during the unhappy reign of Queen Mary, Daniel Danvers may have been old enough to remember the rejoicings on the accession of Elizabeth, who was by the Protestants, who formed the bulk of the middle classes, regarded as their champion. Strange times and many changes the Culworth villagers had witnessed. The middle-aged amongst them remembered the days when it was their care that the lights should always burn in the village church before the Holy Rood beneath the chancel arch, and before the altar of the Trinity and the shrine of St. Christopher, and that the sepulchre should be decked at Eastertide with lights and holy memorials. Times also when, every Sunday and holy day at the least, Mass was said in the church, and when representations of the saints looked down upon the worshippers from wall and window, calling upon the living to walk in the ways of the holy dead. And then came the days—and doubtless they were days in which many rejoiced—when the wardens set up the great Bible in the church, and charged all who were able to read and study the holy volume.

And then followed the days when fanatics came from Banbury or Northampton and despoiled the village church, breaking down shrine and tabernacle and Holy Rood, and leaving the painted windows only because of the cost that should grow by the alteration of the same;† and those were the days when the wardens made that grudging entry in their records, 'The Vykar must fynd us wyne and bread till saint andrey's day.' Then ensued another change, for Queen Mary came to the throne, and though about this time the Culworth records are for many years imperfect, we find in them sufficiently plain indications of the restoration of the old forms of worship, for, in the year 1558, we have, after an interval of many years, a charge for wax for the sepulchre and for 'betynge candelles,' and a new holy water stocke is provided, doubtless in the place of one that had been destroyed in the days of Edward VI. And this year, as might be expected, there is no mention of provision of bread and wine for Holy Communion. The records, after 1558, are again imperfect till the year 1664; then, however, four separate entries for bread and wine, or wine alone, witness to the alterations in the Church services which were made shortly after the accession of Queen Elizabeth.

---

* Beesley's 'Banbury,' p. 196.

† Cf. Harrison's 'Elizabethan England,' p. 77.

After the death of his father we hear nothing more of Daniel Danvers till the year 1583, when, according to an entry in the register of Wroxton Church, he was married there, on November 12, to Susan, daughter of John Pope, Esq., of Wroxton Priory.

The Pope family is one of considerable historic interest, and it is one which gave two wives to the Danvers family. The family, according to Warton,* were seated in Kent before the reign of Edward III., but the first of them of whom we have any certain record is a Sir Thomas Pope, of Oxfordshire, who had a son, William Pope, of Dedington, a place about six miles south of Banbury. William married first Juliana, and, as his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Edmund Yate, of Stanlake, and by her had a family of two sons, Thomas and John, and three daughters, Elizabeth, who married Richard Hutchins, of Chipping-Norton, Juliana a nun of Godstow, Alice, who married Edward Love, of Aynhoe. William Pope died in the year 1523,† leaving landed property in Dedington, Whitehill and Hooknorton. In his will he desired that he might be buried in Dedington Church, to the torches, bells and lights of which he left legacies, and desired to have 'a preste synginge one yeare.' His wife after his death married John

---

* Warton's 'Life of Sir T. Pope'; Baker's 'Northampton,' vol. i., p. 707; Harleian Society, vol. v., p. 151; Croke's 'Croke Family'; Burke's 'Extinct Baronetages'; Oxon Fine, 25 Edward III., Roger Pope and his wife Cecilia had land near Dorchester.

† Exchequer Escheats, series 2, file 795. William Pope died March 16, 15 Henry VIII. His heir is his son Thomas, aged 16 and more.

Bustard, of Adderbury, and died in 1557, at Wroxton, where she appears to have lived with her son, John Pope, after the death of her second husband. A brass to her memory remains in the chancel of Wroxton Church.

Thomas, the eldest son, born about the year 1508, was educated at Banbury Grammar School, and subsequently at Eton, and thence proceeded to Gray's Inn to be trained for the law. He quickly recommended himself to public favour and royal notice, and after holding various offices, was, in the year 1536, made treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, which was established for the purpose of valuing and selling the possessions of the dissolved monasteries. Fuller, in his 'Worthies of England,' speaks of Thomas Pope as one of candid carriage; standing single and sole in this respect, that of the abbey lands which he received he refunded a considerable proportion for the building and endowment, during his life, of Trinity College, Oxford. To him also we owe the preservation of the Abbey Church of St. Albans, which had been condemned to destruction, and was saved only by Thomas Pope's strenuous intercession with the King. Pope, or Sir Thomas, as we should call him, for he was knighted in the year 1536, was a dear friend to Sir Thomas More, and to him was committed by the King the task of warning his friend of his immediate execution. On July 5, 1535, Pope waited on Sir Thomas More, then under condemnation in the Tower, early in the morning, and acquainted him that he came by command of the King and Council to bring to him the melancholy news that he must suffer death before nine of the clock the same morning, and that therefore he should immediately begin to prepare himself for that awful event. Upon this message, More, without the least surprise or emotion, cheerfully replied: 'Master Pope, I most heartily thank you for your good tidings. I have been much bound to the King's highness for the benefit of his honors that he hath most bountifully bestowed upon me, yet am I more bound to his grace, I assure you, for putting me here, where I have had convenient time and space to have remembrance of my end. And, so help me God, most of all am I bound unto him that it hath pleased his Majesty so shortly to rid me out of the misery of this wicked world.'

PEDIGREE OF POPE OF WROXTON.

[Cf. Baker's 'Northampton, vol. i., p. 707.

Sir Thomas Pope,=
of co. Oxon, *temp.* Edward IV.

(1) Juliana,=William Pope of Deddington=Margaret, dau. of Edward Yate=(2) John Bustarde of Adderbury.
dau. of ....; ob. 1523 (15 Henry VIII.). of Stanford, or Stanlake, ob. 1557.

(1) Elizabeth=Sir Thomas Pope,=(2) Margaret Townsend, widow of Sir Ralph Dodmer, ob. 1537-38.
Gunston, divorced July, 1536. born 1508; knighted 1536; ob. 1558-59.
(3) Elizabeth, dau. of Walter Blount of Blount's Hall, Stafford, widow of Anthony Beresford. Third husband, Sir Hugh Paulit of Hinton St. George, Somerset.

Alice, ob. inf.

John=(1) Ann Staveley.
=(2) Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Brockett.
(3) Jane, dau. of Sir Edmund Windham of Felbrigge, Norfolk.

Elizabeth=(1) Richard Hutchins.
(2) John Orpwood.
Juliana, a nun at Godstow.
Alice, wife of Ed. Love of Aynho.

Thomas, ob. inf.
George, ob. inf.

Sir William Pope=Anne, dau. of Sir Owen Hopton, widow of Henry, 3rd Baron Wentworth.
of Wroxton and Wilcot, Bart. 1611; Earl of Downe, 1629; bap. Oct. 15, 1573; ob. July 2, 1631.

(2) Anne=John Spurling of Baldock, Herts.
(3) Jane=Francis Combes of Hempstead, Herts.
(5) Penelope, bap. May, 1568.
(6) Mary, bap. July 26, 1569.
(4) Susannah = November 12, 1583, Daniel Danvers, Esq., second son of John Danvers of Culworth.
(1) Georgia, bap. January 3, 1563-64=Robert Raynsford of Staverton, Esq.; ob. April 15, 1629.

Sir William and Anne had two sons, William and Thomas. Sir William died before his father, and his son Thomas became second Earl of Downe, but, leaving no male issue, was followed in the title by his uncle, Thomas, third Earl of Downe. Thomas, second Earl, left a daughter, Elizabeth=(1) Sir Francis Henry Lee of Ditchley. Thomas, second Earl, had brothers, John and William, who died *s.p.*, and two sisters, of whom the eldest, Elizabeth=George Raleigh of Farnborough, Warwick, and the second, Anne, baptized January 1, 1617-18,=Sir Samuel Danvers of Culworth, Bart., and died January, 1682-83.

Thomas, third Earl of Downe=Beata, daughter of Sir Henry Poole. He was followed by his son Thomas, fourth and last Earl of Downe. He had also five daughters—Eleanor, Anne, Beata, Frances, Finetta. Frances=Sir Francis North, Lord Keeper, created Baron Guilford in 1683. They had issue, North, Earl of Guilford, from whom descend the present family.

Then Pope subjoined that it was the King's pleasure that at the place of execution he should not use many words. To this More answered that he was ready to submit to the King's commands, and added: 'I beseech you, good Mr. Pope, to get the King to suffer my daughter, Margaret, to be present at my burial.' Pope assured him that he would use his interest with the King for this purpose; and having now finished his disagreeable commission, he solemnly took leave of his dying friend, and burst into tears. More, perceiving his concern, said: 'Quiet yourself, good Mr. Pope, and be not disconcerted, for I trust that we shall one day in heaven see each other full merrily, where we shall be sure to live and love together in joyful bliss eternally.'

Sir Thomas Pope did not comply with the times during the reign of Edward VI., but was taken into favour and made a Privy Councillor on the accession of Queen Mary. To him was confided the care of the Princess Elizabeth during her enforced residence at Hatfield; but, though he won her esteem and regard, his principles would not allow of his taking office on her accession to the throne, and his name was omitted from the list of the Privy Councillors. Sir Thomas died in the year 1558-59, and was first buried with his second wife,* Margaret Townsend, in the Church of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, whence their bodies were removed to the chapel of Trinity College, Oxford, to the tomb which was erected for him by his third wife,† Elizabeth Blount, who, after his death, married Sir Hugh Paulit.

Sir Thomas amassed great wealth and large landed estates, of which a considerable portion was devoted to the foundation of Trinity College. In the year 1537 Sir Thomas bought from William Raynesford, of Wroxton, the interest which he had acquired in the buildings and property of the dissolved Priory of Wroxton, and subsequently he obtained, by exchange from the Crown, the reversion of all the property of the Priory, property which he bestowed upon the college which he founded.

---

* He was divorced from his first wife, Elizabeth Gunston, in July, 1536.

† William Blount of Osbaston, brother to Elizabeth, married Frances Love, daughter of Alice, Sir Thomas Pope's sister. They had a son, Sir Thomas Pope-Blount, of Tittenhanger.

Sir Thomas left no children, and his heir was his brother, John Pope, Esq., of Wroxton.

The village of Wroxton is three miles north-west of Banbury, a pleasant little village, the more ancient part of which is dominated by the church, dedicated to All Saints. The church is fourteenth century of the Decorated period, and consists of chancel, nave and aisles, south porch, and a west tower, which has been rebuilt. The chancel has plain Decorated windows without cusps, and has two sedilia and the ancient roof. There is a piscina in the north aisle. The chancel screen is Perpendicular with additions of a later period. The font also is Perpendicular and is very fine, but the carving of the figures was deepened about forty years ago. The chancel is full of memorials of the Pope, North and Guilford families, of which the most striking is the magnificent monument to Sir William Pope, first Earl of Downe, and his wife, Anne Hopton. The monument is an altar-tomb of alabaster, on which are the recumbent effigies of the earl and his countess, he dressed in a suit of half armour with an earl's coronet on his head, and the countess in a long robe, ruff and veil. At their heads kneel two sons, and at their feet a daughter. The face of the earl is singularly handsome and refined, almost womanly in the delicacy of the features, while that of the countess, though by no means unpleasing, denotes a woman of strong character.

Just within the altar rails is a brass with an inscription to the memory of Margaret Pope, died in 1557, wife of William Pope, of Dedington. She was the grandmother of Sir William Pope, Earl of Downe, and of his sister, Susan Danvers.

In the chancel are buried Lord Keeper Guilford, and his wife, Frances, daughter and coheiress of Thomas,* third Earl of Downe, who brought the Wroxton estate to her husband's family. Here also are buried Mr. Thomas Coutts and his first wife, Elizabeth. One of their daughters, Susan, married the third Earl of Guilford, and hence their connection with Wroxton.

On the south of the church is 'Wroxton Abbey,' built by the first Earl of Downe upon the site of the ancient priory, and now the seat of his descendant, Lord North. The mansion contains many fine portraits of the Pope and North families, amongst them those of Sir Thomas Pope and of his nephew, Sir William Pope.

---

* Nephew to Susan Danvers.

John Pope, the brother of Sir Thomas, lived in the Priory house, which stood close to the site of the present mansion, and, dying in the year 1583, was buried in the village church. He was three times married, but had children only by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Brockett. They had three sons, of whom two, George and Thomas, died in infancy, a third, William, survived, and was created a baronet, and subsequently, in the year 1628, Earl of Downe. They had also six daughters, of whom the eldest, Georgia, married Robert Raynsford,* of Staverton. The baptisms of three of the daughters, Georgia, Penelope and Mary, are entered in the Wroxton Church register in the years 1563, 1568 and 1569. Another daughter, Susannah, was married on November 12, 1583, to Daniel Danvers, gentleman. Clearly Susan must have been older than both Penelope and Mary, or she would have been of the age of fifteen only when she married.

Susan's mother was Elizabeth,† daughter of Sir John Brocket, of Brocket Hall, near Hatfield, Sheriff of the county in the years 1561 and 1581, by Margaret,‡ daughter of William Benstede, of the ancient family of that name.

The parish church§ at the time of the marriage of Susannah Pope and Daniel Danvers was essentially that of the present day. The father of the bride had not been long dead, but her mother was still living, and in her father's place stood her brother William, the man whose tomb now dominates the chancel, prominent amongst the many memorials of his descendants which somewhat overpower the sanctuary.

---

* Robert Raynsford, of Staverton, was son of Richard Raynsford, of Gyles, Essex, and of Drayton, near Daventry. Richard was the son of George, brother to the Sir William Raynsford whose daughter Dorothy married John Danvers. Robert married, as his second wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Kirton, of Thorpe Mandeville. Their son, Sir Richard Raynsford, of Dallington, was M.P. for Northampton in 1659-60 and 1661, and Lord Chief Justice, 1676.

† Clutterbuck's 'Herts,' vol. ii., p. 359.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 280.

§ The register of Wroxton parish church begins in the year 1552, and for many years the entries are very few in number—that of the marriage of Daniel Danvers and Susannah Pope is the only one of the year 1583, and the one which follows it is in Juue, 1584, and is also a Pope marriage —'Edmonde Meriden and Hellono Pope were married on the seaventh daye.'

To Culworth Daniel Danvers carried his bride, and there they lived till towards the end of the century. It seems very probable that he built the house now known as the 'dower house' in anticipation of his marriage. In a deed, dated April 24 of 32 Elizabeth, Samuel Danvers, as lord of the manor, grants to Daniel Danvers leave to add to the house which he (Daniel) had lately erected towards Culworth Street. The architecture of the dower house, and the fact that it is, with the exception of the manor house, the only gentleman's dwelling-house upon the street, is sufficient evidence that it is the house in question. When Daniel Danvers removed from Culworth he sold this house, together with the rest of his property in the parish, to his nephew, John Danvers. The grounds of the house adjoin those of the manor house, and neither grounds nor house have been dismantled, as in the case of the manor house. The oak-panelled hall and one oak-panelled room remain as they were in the time of Daniel Danvers. The grounds, too, retain terraced walks and old-time hedges, which recall the days when Daniel's children played thereabout. The children were all baptized in Culworth—Frances, the eldest, on September 20, 1584; John, the eldest son, on August 29, 1585; Anne on September 11, 1587; Anthony on April 22, 1590; Mary on June 15, 1592; William on August 23, 1593; and a second Mary on April 13, 1598. On October 15, 1587, Daniel Danvers* bought of his brother Samuel for £12 10s. and a yearly rent of £3, the lease of the Berry Close with the house thereon, in which at the time lived William Watts. He puts the name of his eldest son, John, in the lease. Daniel appears to have been a moneyed man, as we find him on one occasion, in the year 1586, lending £400* to his brother Samuel on the security of the latter's tithes of grain and corn in Culworth, the money to be repaid in a twelvemonth in the house of Lady Dorothy Benger (their mother) in Culworth. In the year 1591*

---

* Deeds in possession of the writer.

(March 20, 34 Elizabeth) Daniel Danvers bought from Samuel Danvers for the sum of £400 a moiety of the manor of Moreton Pinkney, with the house thereon occupied by Mr. Thomas Brickett, and other appurtenances of the manor. The following year he again lends to his brother on the security of the tithes of Culworth.

Daniel Danvers does not appear to have followed any profession, and it is evident from the baptisms of his children in Culworth Church and from the notices which we find of him in the Lay Subsidy Rolls,* and in the parish accounts, that he lived the greater part of his life in the village. His occupations would be those of the country squire, but it must be remembered that the squire was no longer the country boor that he was a few generations back, a man with no knowledge but that of husbandry and hunting, and with no books beyond, perhaps, one on heraldry. The literary activity of the country, roused in the days of Henry VII., had not subsided; indeed, early in the reign of Elizabeth, all the new ideas, called into existence by the Renaissance, the Reformation and the discovery of the New World, assumed a form, and found expression in writing.† In the year 1590 were published the first three books of 'The Faery Queen,' and we may imagine Daniel Danvers reading Spenser's verses, and delighting to unravel the meaning of the allegory, finding in the red-cross knight the militant Christian, in Una, whom he loves, the true Church, and in Duessa, who seduces him, a type of Popery. Then followed the earlier plays of Shakespeare, while many of those whose hearts were not stirred by Spenser or by Shakespeare, or by the works of the numberless minor poets of the period, found a literature to their taste in the abundant theological writings of the day. The taste or spirit which induced Daniel Danvers to possess himself, as we learn from the records, of Calvin's 'Institutes,' would lead him to study, along with the English Bible, the works of Erasmus and of Jewell‡—'The Apology,' and 'The Defence of the

---

* He is present with Samuel Danvers in Northampton Lay Subsidy Rolls of 30, 35 and 39 Elizabeth, and in parish accounts of years 1589, 1595 and 1598.

† Bright's 'England,' vol. ii., p. 574.

‡ See Culworth parish accounts.

Apology,' which were, we know, amongst the books that belonged to the village church. Possibly in his studies he found a kindred spirit in Mr. Kinge (Knight ?), of Culworth, one of the ministers 'who doe especiallye assemble themselves' at the classes, or synods, of Northampton, one of whose tenets was that 'such as cannot preach are no ministers,' and that, shaking off the yoke of Bishops, Pastors, Doctors—Elders, Deacons, Widows, should govern the Church (Northampton Tracts, Taylor and Son, 1878).

Out-door occupation, too, Daniel Danvers would find in plenty, for those were prosperous days for individuals who possessed land, and capital wherewith to stock it—indeed, it is one of William Harrison's complaints against the times that the gentry were taking their lands into their own hands, and becoming graziers, butchers, tanners, sheepmasters, woodmen, and what not.* 'Our sheep are very excellent,' he writes, 'sith, for sweetness of flesh, they pass all other. And so much are our wools to be preferred before those of Milesia and other places, that if Jason had known the value of them that are bred and to be had in Britain, he would not have gone to Colchis to look for any there.'† Northamptonshire, too, was a great horse and cattle breeding country, and great attention was being paid to the improvement of the breeds. Owing, too, to the recent introduction of winter roots and other winter food, sheep and cattle could be kept through the winter without the loss from death and deterioration which formerly prevailed. The land also was more intelligently worked, and thus, and by the use of manures, its productiveness was vastly increased. So that there was plenty of occupation for an intelligent landholder, and plenty of inducement to him to make full use of his land and capital. Moreover, the Culworth parish accounts give us a hint that the lord of the manor and his brother were engaged in the way that Harrison decries, for in the year 1570 Mr. Danvers buys the town bull for 30s. Probably the parish, which had already given up its ale business, was now parting with its stock.

As regards the daily round of a squire's life, we learn from

---

* Furnivall's edition of 'Harrison's England,' Camelot Series, p. 121.

† *Ibid.*, p. 155.

Harrison that the regular meals were two in number only. 'With us,' he writes, 'the nobility, gentry, and students do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noon, and to supper at five, or between five and six at afternoon, except here and there some young hungry stomach that cannot fast till dinner time.' The beverage early and late in a country house was beer, commonly a year old, 'or peradventure,' says Harrison, 'of two years' tunning or more, but for the household usually not under a month's age, each one coveting to have the same stale as he may, so that it be not sour, and his bread new as is possible, so that it be not hot.'

The same authority tells us of the many houses that at this period were pulled down, that they might be rebuilt according to the new fashion of brick or hard stone, or both, their rooms comely and large, and their houses of office distant from their lodgings. And he notices three things that are marvellously altered in England: one is the multitude of chimneys with which the houses are now provided in the place of the two or three of former days; and another change is the amendment of the lodging, the mattresses, the feather beds, and pillows in the place of the straw pallets, with a good round log for a pillow; and the third change that he notices is the exchange of wooden for pewter platters, and wooden spoons to silver or tin. And in another place he tells us that because of their plenty the gentry loathed silver vessels, and would have Venice glasses, and even the poor will have glass, contenting themselves with such that are made at home. But with reference to the glass vessels he quaintly reflects that 'they go to shards at the last, and breed much strife towards such as have the charge of them; and as regards the amendment of house and furniture, when,' says he, 'our houses were built of willow, we had oaken men, but now that our houses have come to be of oak, our men are not only become willow, but a great many, through Persian delicacy, crept in amongst us altogether of straw.'

To return to Daniel Danvers. In the year 1599 his elder brother, Samuel of Culworth, died, and after that we find no further record of Daniel's presence in Culworth, while five years previously he had bought from his brother-in-law, Sir

William Pope, the manor, with its appurtenances, of March Baldon in Oxfordshire. The conveyance of the manor is recorded in Oxon Fine of the year 1594 (Hilary, 37 Elizabeth). The fine is passed between Daniel Danvers, his wife Susanna, and William Pope; the manor is called March Baldington,* or March Baldon, or March Baldington Windesor. With the manor are twelve messuages, eight cottages, two dovecots, twenty gardens, twenty orchards, twenty acres meadow, two hundred acres pasture, five acres wood, one hundred acres furze and heath, three hundred acres land, and thirty-five shillings of rent in March Baldon, Newington, Nettlebed, Brightwell, and Watlington, and the advowson of March Baldon Church.

March Baldon is a village situated about six miles to the south-east of Oxford. The manor house in which Daniel Danvers lived is now the seat of Sir John Christopher Willoughby, but the panelled hall and some of the rooms remain as they were when he inhabited them. The house is, however, considerably enlarged by the addition of rooms at the back of the old manor house. The house stands in a small park close to the little church, in which is a monumental slab to the memory of John Danvers, late of March Baldon in the county of Oxon, Esq., who deceased the 20th April, 1616, æt. suæ 30. On a slab is a brass with Danvers arms. Quarterly a chevron between three mullets (Danvers), 2 on a bend three martletts (Brancestre), 3 checky a chief gutty (Coleshill), 4 fretty of six (Blanchminster).

---

* The descent of the manor of Marsh Baldon and of the advowson of the church is very carefully traced in a case (Jakman *v.* Cox) which was frequently before the courts in the years 1770-72, and was heard in the House of Lords, February 4, 1774. From the evidence adduced in the case, it appears that the manor and advowson were released by Walter Windsor, son of Lord Windsor, to Sir Thomas Pope. From Sir Thomas's nephew, William Pope, they passed to his sister Susan and her husband, Daniel Danvers, and in October, 1613, were the subject of a marriage settlement made on the marriage of John Danvers' eldest son, and heir of Daniel, with Anne, the daughter of Anthony Sadler. After the death of John, the manor and advowson passed to the Pollard family by the marriage of Susan, daughter and heiress of John Danvers, with John Pollard. Those who are interested in the history of the village may find the case fully reported in Symonds' MS. collections for Oxfordshire, vol. vi., in the office of the Town Clerk of Oxford, and in the original pleadings, which are at the Record Office.

In the register in which John Danvers' death is recorded he is called 'lord of the manor.' His daughter and heiress married John Pollard, of the neighbouring village Nuneham-Courtney. We anticipate in respect of these particulars in order to account for the presence in two of the church windows of the arms of Danvers and Pollard.

In the Close Roll of 4 James I. (1606), part xvii., is an indenture made on May 10 between Daniel Danvers, of March-Bauldwyn, in the county of Oxon, gentleman, Susannah, his wife, and John Danvers the younger, son and heir apparent of the said Daniel and Susannah on the one part, and John Danvers, the elder, of Culworth (Daniel's nephew), on the other, witnessing that the said Daniel Danvers and Susannah, his wife, and John, their son, in consideration of the sum of £1,230 (a large sum at the time), sell to the said John all their land and houses, etc., in the parish and field of Culworth. The land included the Berry Close (where are the remains or site of the castle), and houses and land in the occupation of Richard Piddington, John Goodwyn, and several other people, whose names are frequently met with in the parish records. One of the houses, that in the occupation of Margaret Butler, must have been a considerable one, as the rent was £23 annually—a large rent, as we may judge from the fact that John Danvers, the lord of the manor, appears in the Lay Subsidy Roll of the year 1610 with a rating of only £14 in land. By this sale* Daniel Danvers finally separated himself and his family from Culworth.

Shortly after the death of Daniel's eldest brother, Samuel, we find his son, Samuel the younger, clearing off the encumbrances on his father's estate,† and amongst other deeds is one* dated April 1, 42 Elizabeth, by which Daniel Danvers and Susan, his wife, agree to levy a fine by means of which the moiety of the manor of Moreton Pinkney will pass to his nephew. Further,* on the 24th of the same month, he by another deed releases to Samuel Danvers 'all manner of actions debte dutyes and demaundes.' On the back of this deed we find in the handwriting of John, brother to Samuel Danvers the younger, the words, 'My unckle Danyell Danvers his release to my brother Sa: Danvers.'

---

* Lay Subsidy Rolls of Culworth Parish are wanting between the years 1556 and 1592. That of the latter year rates Samuel Danvers, Esq., in lands at £25, while Danyell Danvers, gentleman, is rated at only £4. Yet small as that rating may seem, it represented the estate of many a village squire. Robert Washington, the then (1596 roll) squire of Sulgrave, was rated at £4 only, and such was the rating of many of the gentry who head the rolls of several Northampton villages of the period.

† This deed is signed by Danyell Danvers and Susan Danvers.

About the year 1613 Daniel's son and heir, John,† married Ann, daughter of Anthony Sadler, and the baptism of their only child, Susan, is entered in the parish register on October 17, 1614. On February 28, 1635, is the entry of the marriage of Susanna Danvers and John Pollard. From the 'Visitation of Wiltshire'‡ of the year 1623 it would appear that Mrs. John Danvers married again, for we find in it (p. 19) an entry to the effect that Richard Goddard, of Upham, Wilts, married Anne, widow of John Danvers, of Boldon, Oxon. The families were already allied, for Lewis Pollard, father of John Pollard, married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Goddard, of Harn, Wilts.

The Pollard family, a very ancient one in Devon, trace their descent to Walter Pollard, of Waye, *temp.* Henry III. From Walter was lineally descended Sir John Pollard,§ of Nuneham-Courtney, whose son, Lewis, married Elizabeth Goddard, and by her had a large family, of whom the eldest, John, husband of Susan Danvers, was born in the year 1608. Sir John Pollard had a brother, Anthony, to whose memory a grand monument was erected in the chancel of the ancient church of Nuneham-Courtney. In the year 1764 this church was pulled down, and after the manner of church restoration of the period, the monument would in the usual way have been broken up and employed as building material. It was, however, rescued, and removed, with a fragment of the ancient church, to the grounds of March Baldon manor house, where it now stands in the woods by the side of the small lake which the grounds include. Strange it is, lighting in this lonely spot upon a beautiful fragment of Early English work, against which rests the fine monument of Anthony Pollard and his wife, Phillippa. Uncovered, exposed to wind and rain, lie their effigies and those of their two sons; above them are the armorial bearings of the family, described by Anthony Wood as he saw them, when in his time they were in the chancel of Nuneham - Courtney Church.* The inscription states that the tomb is that of Anthony Pollard, Esquire, brother of Sir John Pollard of Nuneham, of the ancient and illustrious family of Pollard of Harwood, Devon, who died July 19, 1577, æt. 51; and of Phillippa, his wife, sister of Ralph Sheldon, of Beoly, Worcester, who died December 23, 1606, æt. 77. They had two sons, William and John, who died young, and whose mutilated effigies are placed beside their parents' tomb.

---

* Deeds in our possession.

† John, son of Daniel, baptized at Culworth, August 29, 1585, admitted C.F. to Winchester College, æt. 12, in the year 1598.

‡ Edited by G. W. Marshall, LL.D.

§ Harleian Society's vol. v., pp. 204, 305.

In the year 1615 Daniel Danvers† and his son, Anthony, bought of Thomas Wykeham and his wife, Frideswide, and others, two houses, two gardens, 140 acres land, 20 acres meadow, 30 acres pasture, and 16 acres gorse in Swalecliffe. And probably about this time, and in consequence of the death of his eldest son John, Daniel Danvers decided to leave March Baldon, for in the year 1617‡ we find him again with Anthony, buying from Richard Leighte and Elizabeth, his wife, and Margaret York, widow, the manor of Horley, Oxon, and four messuages and four tofts, two dovecots, four gardens, four orchards, 140 acres land, 40 acres meadow, 80 acres pasture, 40 acres wood, 10 acres of gorse, and fifteen shillings of rent in the village for himself, his son Anthony and their heirs. Thus Daniel became 'Daniel of Horley,' as Baker calls him in the Danvers pedigree. Of the village we shall have more to say hereafter; suffice it now that it is a little more than a mile north of Wroxton, where lived Daniel's wife's brother, Sir William Pope, at the time engaged in building the grand mansion which is the present seat of his descendants. Eight miles to the east of Horley is Culworth, where lived Daniel's nephew, John, and at Banbury and Broughton, two miles away, lived his cousins Danvers and Fiennes, while the next village to Horley on the east was Hanwell, the seat of his friends the Copes. Then, again, a little beyond Hanwell, is Prestcote, the ancient dwelling-place of Daniel's ancestors, and at the time one of the seats of his cousin, Henry, Baron Danvers.

---

* Wood MSS., E., i., p. 190, Bodleian Library. Figured in J. H. Parker's 'Architectural Antiquities of Oxford.'

† Oxon Fines, 13 James I., Mich.

‡ *Ibid.*, 15 James I., Mich.

And at Horley, surrounded by many friends, Daniel and Susan Danvers passed the last years of their lives. He died in February, 1623, and his wife followed him in November, 1628. Their burials are entered in the Horley register, and doubtless husband and wife were buried in one grave in Horley churchyard. Their tombstone, if it ever existed there, has disappeared, but this in common with many others, which in the neglectful and irreverent Georgian era are known to have been used for paving-stones and as building materials for neighbouring houses. Daniel left two sons, Anthony of Horley and William of London, and no doubt one or more of his daughters survived him, but whether it was so, and whether they married, and whom they married, is to us unknown.

Let us notice who and where were the other members of the Danvers family, descendants of John of Dauntesey and his wife, Anne Stradling, at the date of Daniel Danvers' death. At Culworth was his nephew, John Danvers, with his wife, Dorothy Pulteney, and their son, Samuel. At Dauntesey and Prestcote was Sir Henry, Baron Danvers, and at Chelsea his brother, Sir John Danvers and his first wife, the widow of Richard Herbert of Chelsea and mother of George Herbert of Bemerton. At Baynton was Charles Danvers, second cousin to Sir Henry, with his wife and five sons and nine daughters. At Corsham and Tockenham were John Danvers, grandson of Sir John and Anne Stradling, his wife Susan, and their son, John. At Upton and Ratley, in Warwickshire, were George Danvers, great-great-grandson of Sir William Danvers and his wife Anne Pury, with his second wife, Maria, and three or four sons. At Fifield, in Berks, were John, brother of George, and his wife. At Adderbury was

Thomas, also a great-great-grandson of Sir William, and his wife, Alice Knevett, and several nephews, children of his brothers.

Before the end of the next century all the male descendants of these families—saving one, a great-great-grandson of Daniel's—were dead, and not a single acre of the once broad lands of the family belonged to a man of the name of Danvers.

William Danvers, the third son of Daniel Danvers, and his wife, Susanna, was baptized at Culworth in August, 1593. As was the case with so many of the younger sons of country gentlemen of the period, he went into trade, and established himself as 'a silkman' in Paternoster Row. In the times of the Lancastrian kings the makers of rosaries, or Pater Nosters, had established themselves in this neighbourhood, attracted to it, no doubt, by the vicinity of the three great ecclesiastical establishments, St. Paul's Cathedral and the monasteries of the Gray and Black Friars. The rosary turners seem to have made way for the mercers and silkmen, and in the year 1665 we find Pepys dressed in his new camelott suit, the best he ever wore in his life, going to Paternoster Row to choose silk to make him a plain ordinary suit. And the street was then, as now, often blocked, not, however, by carts carrying loads of books or of paper, but by the carriages of the nobility and gentry buying silk and lace and cloth, or doing business with the sempstresses and tire-women who had also settled in the Row.

Each shop had its signboard setting forth the name and business of its owner, and William Danvers, as we learn from his will, had two houses in the Row which were known as 'The Golden Dragon' and 'The Blue Boar.' Moreover, William held a share in a ship, *The Advice of London*, and doubtless imported from Genoa or Venice, or possibly even from India, the silks which he sold. He seems to have been a prosperous man, owning the two houses in the Row, and land and houses in Kerry Lane, near Whittington College, a site still marked by College Street, Queen Victoria Street, and he had, too, much silver plate, which by his will he divided amongst his children.

William belonged to the parish of St. Faith, a church which once stood near the east end of old St. Paul's, but being demolished in the year 1256, a part of the crypt of the cathedral was made over to the use of the congregation, and became the Church of St. Faith's beneath St. Paul's. The registers of the church have been preserved, and we find there the entry, July 14, 1646, of the burial of Elizabeth, daughter of William Danvers, silkman, and his wife, Anne. August 9, of the same year, of Anna, daughter of Mr. William Danvers, of Paternoster Row, and on November 8, 1650, is the entry of the burial of Mrs. Danvers, wife of Mr. Danvers, of Paternoster Row, silkman.

William Danvers died in the year 1660, and was buried in the church or churchyard of St. Faith's. He desires in his will that Mr. Shute may preach his funeral sermon and leaves to him 40s.

His will (Nabbs, 117) was made in May, 1660, and proved by his executors, his sons Samuel and Daniel, on the 26th of the following July. He mentions his sons, George, Samuel, Daniel, Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and William, and his daughters, Mary, wife of Lawrence Maydewell, and Jane, wife of Robert Austin. He leaves legacies to his cousin, John Pollard (husband of his brother John's daughter, Susan), to the poor of St. Faith's, and to Mr. Shute. His property and plate he divides amongst his children, constitutes his sons Samuel and Daniel his executors, and enjoins them 'on his blessing' to be careful in the performance of their duties, specially to have care of their brother William.

William died in the year 1660, and that year his son Samuel, bachelor, aged twenty-five, Dowgate, skinner, had leave to marry (Vicar-General of Archbishop of Canterbury) Abigail Arnold, aged eighteen, daughter of Stoughton Arnold, of St. Andrew's, Holborn. As we learn from the register of the Skinners' Company, Samuel Danvers was at the time on the livery of the company. His wife died when young, and in 1667 we find Samuel again licensed to marry—'Samuel Danvers, of St. Clement Danes, widower, about thirty-two, to Beata Bridges, of Fulham, spinster, about twenty-two, with her mother's consent.'

There can be little doubt that the Samuels of these two marriages are one and the same individual, for the ages given in the two licenses tally, and in one of the notices of the later marriage the bridegroom is called citizen of London, which Samuel, son of William, undoubtedly was.

Beata Bridges ('Collin's Peerage,' vol. vi., p. 728), was third daughter of Sir John Brydges, of Wilton Castle, Hereford, who died in the year 1651. Sir John was succeeded by his son, Sir James, who was his Majesty's ambassador to Constantinople, and became by inheritance Lord Chandos. He died in the year 1714, and in 1719 his son James was created Duke of Chandos.

At the time of Beata's marriage her mother was living at Fulham, but she seems to have removed to Kensington, where, in March of the year 1723, we find Beata Danvers administering to the estate of her mother, Beata Danvers, widow.

At the period of which we are writing, two terrible calamities happened to the city: these were the great plague of the year 1665, and the great fire of September, 1666. The brothers Samuel and George Danvers escaped the plague, but their fortunes must have been materially altered for the worse by the fire, which burnt down their houses in Paternoster Row and in Kerry Lane.

George,* the elder brother, died in the year 1669. In his will (Penn, 90) he leaves the ground on College Hill (the houses had been burnt down) and his gold seal ring with his coat-of-arms thereon to his brother Samuel, and to Samuel's wife his father's feather bed and bolster. He leaves legacies to his sisters Austin and Maydwell, amongst other things a diamond and emerald ring and his father's and mother's mourning rings. His brothers Daniel and Samuel are his executors. George was a lawyer; he belonged to the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate, and his burial is entered in the parish church register on February 7, 1668-69.

Daniel Danvers, the second son of William, matriculated at Oxford, and became a B.A. from Trinity College on July 5, 1651, a Fellow of the College in the year 1654, and Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine in the year 1666. He seems to have been well known in his time at Oxford as a clever speaker and a wit. He married Jane, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Knightley, Vicar of Charwelton and Byfield, and established himself as a physician at Northampton, where he became distinguished both in his profession and as a citizen. We learn from the Culworth parish register and from his will that Dr. Daniel had a house at Culworth, and that he maintained kindly relations with his cousins there. Daniel, son of Sir Pope, was his godson and namesake.

---

* He was admitted to Winchester College as founder's kin—1636, George Danvers, C.F., aged 13, St. Faith's, London.

Dr. Daniel died on May 12, 1699, about seventy years of age. In his will* he mentions his wife, his daughter Jane, his son Knightley, his godson Daniel, and his nieces and goddaughters, Mrs. Anne Adams, Mrs. Sarah Knightley and Mrs. Anne Hyne. He was buried in the parish church of Northampton, where his monument remains.

His wife survived him many years, outliving her daughter Jane and her husband,† John Rushworth, a surgeon. She died in the year 1739, aged ninety-six.

Knightley Danvers,‡ Dr. Daniel's son, was well known in his time as a barrister, and the author of one or more law books. He became Recorder of Northampton, and died in January, 1740, leaving no children. In his will (Browne, 6) he leaves legacies to his nieces, Rushworth and Vintner, to many old friends, and to the poor of Byfield, where, as he states, he was born. Jane, his sister, married after her father's death John Rushworth, surgeon, of Northampton, by whom she had a large family.§ There is a tablet to her and to her husband's memory on the wall of the south aisle of All Saints' Church, Northampton.

---

* In the Probate Registry, at Northampton, made May 10, 1699, proved in August following. The seal bears the impression of the old Danvers arms—the chevron and mullets.

† Monuments in the parish church.

‡ See Forster's 'Alumni Oxoniensis,' edition of 1891.

§ One of them, Alice, married Charles Watkins of Badby, Northants, whose son, Charles Watkins, married Sarah Lord. Their daughter, Sarah Watkins, married Richard Miles Wynne, of Exarth, Denbigh, and their daughter and heiress, Mary Miles Wynne, married James Pitt Goodrich of Everglyn, Glamorgan. The above is from a pedigree in the possession of H. St. A. Goodrich, Esq., son of James Pitt Goodrich.

CHAPTER XIII.

A.D. 1616—1750.

In the year 1616 John, eldest son of Daniel Danvers, died at March Baldon, leaving no son, and the following year Daniel Danvers and his eldest living son, Anthony, together bought the manor of Horley and its appurtenances,* attracted no doubt to the village by its proximity to Wroxton, and not improbably also by the congenial neighbourhood of the Puritan divines of Banbury. In the year 1629 Anthony Danvers added to his Horley property land and houses in Horley and Chipping-Norton, which he bought of Henry Goodwyn and others.† It is a curious and not uninteresting reflection that Daniel Danvers, when he bought the manor of Horley, the last manor which his family held in Oxfordshire, may have entered upon one of the possessions which, five and a half centuries previously, belonged to his ancestor, Sir Ralph de Alvers. We are told that the earliest members of the Danvers family in England held many manors in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire of Earl Moreton and Milo Crispin; and we have identified the Ralph who held the manor of Dorney of Milo Crispin with Ralph de Alvers, eldest son of the Roland who came into England with the Conqueror. Now we find, and this in the Domesday Record, that a Ralph held Hornelie (Horley), Oxon, of Earl Moreton, and some support is given to the view that this was Ralph de Alvers by the circumstance

---

* Oxon Fine, Mich., 15 James I.

† *Ibid.*, Trinity, 5 Charles I. *Ibid.*, Easter, 16 James I., and Mich., 17 James I., Daniel and Anthony Danvers sell land in Garsington and Wardington.

mentioned by Vincent, that Ralph's brother Almar held lands in Bourton, a parish which borders on Horley.

The manor house which Daniel Danvers bought, and in which he died, was no doubt built upon, or close to, the site of the mansion of the Ralph of the Domesday period, near to the church, upon the high ground which overlooks the village street.

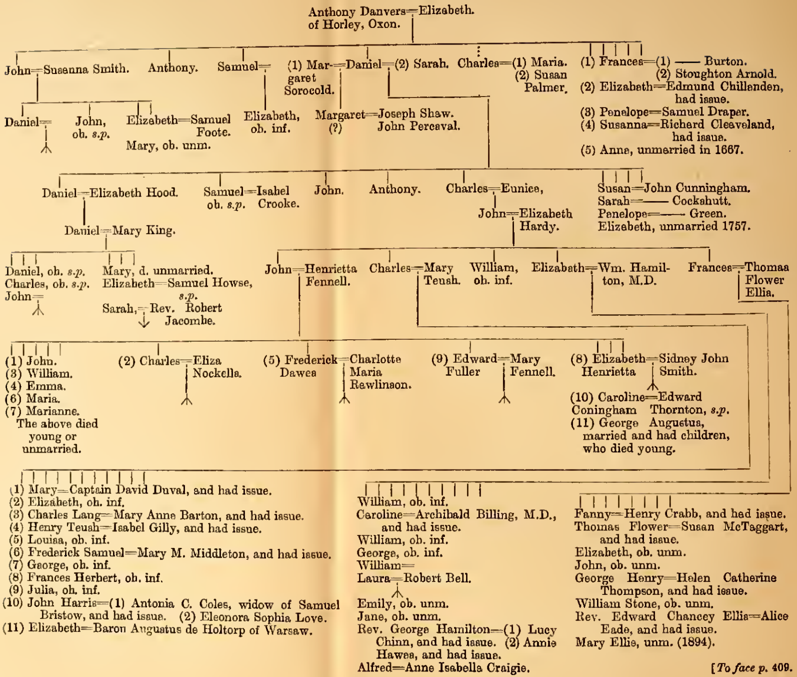
The present manor house covers a considerable space of ground, and is distinctly of two architectural periods. The main block, which forms the front of the house, is square, built of stone with slated roof, and is such a house as would have been built in Queen Anne's time, or in that of the early Georgian period. But joining this block, and extending backwards from it, are the considerable remains of an older house of the Tudor period, the front of which was demolished to make way for the more modern mansion. The south side of the house overhangs a lane which leads to the church and vicarage, and on the other side this lane are the grounds of another house, which is of the same style of architecture as the older part of the manor house. Local tradition asserts that this house forms but a small portion of a large mansion which formerly occupied the site. Each of these houses has a large garden, and an orchard, and there can be little doubt that they are the two houses, with dovecots, which Anthony Danvers and his father bought.

North of the manor house is the village church, dedicated to St. Etheldreda, standing on the highest point of the village, at an elevation of 510 feet above sea-level. From the roof of the tower a fine view may be obtained over the surrounding country, including the villages of Wroxton, Drayton, Hornton, Shotswell, Hanwell, and the town of Banbury. But as the latter lies in a hollow, only a few of the houses and the upper part of the church steeple are discernible. The summit of the castle keep would also have been visible from Horley Church tower, and during the siege the flash of the guns must have been clearly visible from the tower. And very possibly a careful watch was kept there to warn the villagers of raiders from one or the other armies which were so constantly in the neighbourhood.

The church is a fine one, principally of the Decorated and

DANVERS OF HORLEY, LIVERPOOL, AND HORNSEY.

(CHAPTERS XIII. AND XIV.)


Anthony Danvers=Elizabeth.
of Horley, Oxon.
John=Susanna Smith.
Anthony.
Samuel=
(1) Margaret Sorocold.=Daniel=(2) Sarah.
Charles=(1) Maria. (2) Susan Palmer.
(1) Frances=(1) —— Burton. (2) Stoughton Arnold.
(2) Elizabeth=Edmund Chillenden, had issue.
(3) Penelope=Samuel Draper.
(4) Susanna=Richard Cleaveland, had issue.
(5) Anne, unmarried in 1667.
Daniel=
John, ob. s.p.
Elizabeth=Samuel Foote.
Mary, ob. unm.
Elizabeth, ob. inf.
Margaret=Joseph Shaw. (?) John Perceval.
Daniel=Elizabeth Hood.
Samuel=Isabel Crooke. ob. s.p.
John.
Anthony.
Charles=Eunice,
Susan=John Cunningham.
Sarah=—— Cockshutt.
Penelope=—— Green.
Elizabeth, unmarried 1757.
Daniel=Mary King.
John=Elizabeth Hardy.
Daniel, ob. s.p.
Charles, ob. s.p.
John=
Mary, d. unmarried.
Elizabeth=Samuel Howse, s.p.
Sarah,=Rev. Robert Jacombe.
John=Henrietta Fennell.
Charles=Mary Teush.
William, ob. inf.
Elizabeth=Wm. Hamilton, M.D.
Frances=Thomas Flower Ellis.
(1) John.
(3) William.
(4) Emma.
(6) Maria.
(7) Marianne.
The above died young or unmarried.
(2) Charles=Eliza Nockells.
(5) Frederick Dawes=Charlotte Maria Rawlinson.
(9) Edward Fuller=Mary Fennell.
(8) Elizabeth Henrietta=Sidney John Smith.
(10) Caroline Coningham=Edward Thornton, s.p.
(11) George Augustus, married and had children, who died young.
(1) Mary=Captain David Duval, and had issue.
(2) Elizabeth, ob. inf.
(3) Charles Lang=Mary Anne Barton, and had issue.
(4) Henry Teush=Isabel Gilly, and had issue.
(5) Louisa, ob. inf.
(6) Frederick Samuel=Mary M. Middleton, and had issue.
(7) George, ob. inf.
(8) Frances Herbert, ob. inf.
(9) Julia, ob. inf.
(10) John Harris=(1) Antonia C. Coles, widow of Samuel Bristow, and had issue. (2) Eleonora Sophia Love.
(11) Elizabeth=Baron Augustus de Holtorp of Warsaw.
William, ob. inf.
Caroline=Archibald Billing, M.D., and had issue.
William, ob. inf.
George, ob. inf.
William=
Laura=Robert Bell.
Emily, ob. unm.
Jane, ob. unm.
Rev. George Hamilton=(1) Lucy Chinn, and had issue. (2) Annie Hawes, and had issue.
Alfred=Anne Isabella Craigie.
Fanny=Henry Crabb, and had issue.
Thomas Flower=Susan McTaggart, and had issue.
Elizabeth, ob. unm.
John, ob. unm.
George Henry=Helen Catherine Thompson, and had issue.
William Stone, ob. unm.
Rev. Edward Chancey Ellis=Alice Eade, and had issue.
Mary Ellis, unm. (1894).

[*To face p.* 409.

mentioned by Vincent, that Ralph's brother Almar held lands in Bourton, a parish which borders on Horley.

The manor house which Daniel Danvers bought, and in which he died, was no doubt built upon, or close to, the site of the mansion of the Ralph of the Domesday period, near to the church, upon the high ground which overlooks the village street.

The present manor house covers a considerable space of ground, and is distinctly of two architectural periods. The main block, which forms the front of the house, is square, built of stone with slated roof, and is such a house as would have been built in Queen Anne's time, or in that of the early Georgian period. But joining this block, and extending backwards from it, are the considerable remains of an older house of the Tudor period, the front of which was demolished to make way for the more modern mansion. The south side of the house overhangs a lane which leads to the church and vicarage, and on the other side this lane are the grounds of another house, which is of the same style of architecture as the older part of the manor house. Local tradition asserts that this house forms but a small portion of a large mansion which formerly occupied the site. Each of these houses has a large garden, and an orchard, and there can be little doubt that they are the two houses, with dovecots, which Anthony Danvers and his father bought.

North of the manor house is the village church, dedicated to St. Etheldreda, standing on the highest point of the village, at an elevation of 510 feet above sea-level. From the roof of the tower a fine view may be obtained over the surrounding country, including the villages of Wroxton, Drayton, Hornton, Shotswell, Hanwell, and the town of Banbury. But as the latter lies in a hollow, only a few of the houses and the upper part of the church steeple are discernible. The summit of the castle keep would also have been visible from Horley Church tower, and during the siege the flash of the guns must have been clearly visible from the tower. And very possibly a careful watch was kept there to warn the villagers of raiders from one or the other armies which were so constantly in the neighbourhood.

The church is a fine one, principally of the Decorated and

Early English periods, but including vestiges of Norman work, and a plain circular font of that period. The peculiar feature of the church is the Decorated tower, interposed between the nave and the chancel. The chancel is also of the Decorated period, but has a very beautiful little Early English piscina, with a border of dog-tooth ornaments. The seats for the priests are cut in the sill of one of the south windows. On the floor, against the north wall, are two slightly raised coffin-shaped tombs, and upon a white freestone slab in the chancel an inscription as follows:

> 'Here lyeth the body of Mr. Thomas Clarson, vicar of this parish sixteen years and upwards, very peaceable and loving to his neighbours. He departed this life 22 Dec^{r}., 1668.'

On another stone:

> 'Here lyeth the body of Master John Clarson, who was Vicar of Horley forty-one years, and deceased May 3, 1652.'*

Within the north and south walls of the tower are two low arched recesses: that on the south now contains fragments of the stone coffin to receive which it was made. The north, south, and west doorways of the church are good examples of Early English work. In a niche above the doorway of the south porch there remains the mutilated statue of a woman, doubtless that of St. Etheldreda.

The nave is fine and unusually lofty, clerestoried, and divided from the north and south aisles by four lofty arches. The walls of the church seem to have been freely decorated with frescoes,† some of which, thanks to the reverent care of the late rector, have been cleared of whitewash. The principal and best preserved one is on the wall of the north aisle, and illustrates the legend of St. Christopher. The saint's staff breaking beneath his weight and that of the Holy Child, he turns his head to the Christ and says:

'What art Thou, and art so yonge?
Bar I never so heavy a thynge.'

Christ replies:

'Yey, I be hevy, no wunther ys,
For I am the kynge of blys.'

---

* The inscriptions are scarcely visible. They are recorded in Bodleian MS., Rawlinson, B. 400, B.

† The usual designation of what in strictness should be called 'mural paintings.'

But all these memorials—rude, yet reverend—of the piety of former ages, had been thickly whitewashed over long before the time when Anthony Danvers and his father settled in the village, and well that they were so, or between village iconoclasts and the Parliament soldiery, who must frequently have visited Horley, the frescoes would have been utterly effaced.

The windows of this aisle are of the Perpendicular period, and still contain some of their painted glass. In the upper light of one is a bishop holding a cross; a virgin crowned and surrounded with rays of glory, holding in her right hand a sword; over them is a man kneeling in prayer. In another window is the figure of a man in monkish dress.

The village street runs in a southerly direction from the churchyard, and at its southern end, which is crossed by the stream which drives the village mill, is 399 feet above sea level.

The Horley registers begin in 1538, and the first of them, a parchment volume, contains the entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials till the year 1703.

The entries up till and including the year 1598, appear to belong to the original record, rudely written, and in parts dilapidated and decayed. The portion of the register which follows, up to and including the year 1651, is evidently a transcript, clearly and regularly written in a clerkly hand. There are no entries of baptisms for the years 1646 to 1651, both inclusive, excepting two of the year 1650, which are interlined between the last entry of 1645 and the first of 1652. The entries of the later years of this portion of the register of baptisms are squeezed together as if the transcriber had not left himself room for the completion of his work.

There are no entries of marriages for the years 1643-51, and no entries of burials for the years 1639-51.

At the beginning of the entries of 1652, a double line, with cross lines between, is drawn, as if to mark a new beginning, and from thence onwards the registers were probably kept up, as the canon ordered, by the parson, though the handwriting is in places scarcely clerical.

We may here note that in the year 1652 Master John Clarson, vicar of the parish for forty-one years, died, and it is probable that in his time, and that of one or two of his predecessors, occasional entries were made in the register, while the bulk of them were made in some sort of rough register by the parish clerk. Then in later days came a scribe, employed for the purpose, who removed, so far as he could, any old writing, which may still be here and there traced, from the parchment, and from a copy of such of it as he could read, and from the clerk's notes, completed a transcript, which he entered in the space available for it. It is curious that in a not very distant parish, that of Great Tew, work of restoration has been done about the same period, in a similar handwriting, but here the old handwriting is everywhere clearly visible beneath the restorations.

Horley is, of course, by no means peculiar in regard to the state of its church registers. The registers of a large proportion of the parishes throughout the country have been at one time or another, for a shorter or longer period, carelessly and negligently kept, a scandal which in Queen Anne's time had become so grievous that it engaged the attention of the Lower House of Convocation, and steps were taken to remedy the evil. The practice seems to have prevailed in many parishes of omitting to make entries at the time, leaving it to the clerk to keep rough notes, which were at uncertain intervals transcribed into the register books. The notes were often lost or mislaid, and it constantly happened that the parish register was neither a full nor an accurate transcript of the original record.*

The Bishop of Nottingham, commenting on the imperfections of the old parish registers, remarks that the evil arose from failure of the clergy in making entries correctly, deputing the duty to incompetent parish clerks, to their rough entry in provisional books, and erroneous after entry in the register.†

No complete list of the vicars of Horley exists, but on the first page of one volume of the register is a note that Hugh Pritchard, vicar, was buried in the year 1599; John Payne was vicar from 1605 to 1611, died June 29 of the latter year, and John Clarson, vicar for forty-one years, died 1652; Thomas Clarson, vicar, died in 1668; Stephen Goodwin, vicar, died 1722.

To Horley in the year 1617 came Daniel and Susanna

---

* See R. E. Chester-Waters' 'Parish Registers,' pp. 83-85. London, 1885.

† *Lincoln Diocesan Magazine*, May, 1886.

Danvers, with their son Anthony. William, the other living son, had left home to settle in London. We do not know if Frances and Ann, Daniel's daughters, married, but we find in the Horley register, in July, 1624, the marriage of Mary Danvers and Richard Watts, and the bride was doubtless Mary, the daughter of Daniel and Susanna Danvers.

As the eldest son of Anthony Danvers was born in June, 1624, and as other children followed in very regular order, we may assume that Anthony married in the year 1623, before his father's death, which is recorded in the Horley register in February, 1623 (New Style, February, 1624). The Christian name of Anthony's wife was Elizabeth, but diligent search has failed to discover any record of her surname. John, their eldest son, was baptized at Horley, June 27, 1624. He is called after his father's eldest brother. Frances, the next child, baptized June 25, 1626, was called after her father's aunt, Frances Pope. Elizabeth, named after her mother, was baptized August 24, 1628. Anthony, baptized December 9, 1630, bears his father's name. Penelope, called after her father's aunt, Penelope Pope, was baptized February 12, 1632 (New Style, 1633). Samuel, called after his father's uncle and cousin, was baptized August 6, 1636. Susannah, called after her grandmother, was baptized March 27, 1638. Anne, called after her aunt, Anne Danvers, was baptized May 18, 1641. Daniel, called after his grandfather, was baptized January 15, 1644 (New Style, 1645).

Now, we place Samuel and Susan of the foregoing list amongst Anthony's children, notwithstanding the fact that in the register they are entered as the children of 'Daniel Danvers.' Our reasons for so doing will be given at length in an appendix to the chapter—at present we will simply outline them. 1. By the help of the carefully preserved register of Culworth; of the parish accounts of the village; of the Lay Subsidy Rolls of Northampton and Oxford; and of the many extant wills and deeds of the Danvers family of the period, we become thoroughly conversant with the members of the family, and we can with confidence assert that at the time there was no member of the family named Daniel who could have been the father of the children in question, Samuel and Susanna.

2. That if these children were not the children of Anthony and Elizabeth Danvers, a strange gap in the sequence of the births occurs between the births of Penelope, in the year 1632, and of Anne, born in the year 1639. 3. Were children born to Anthony and Elizabeth at the time we assume, there is much probability that they would be named Susanna and Samuel—family names, the names of Anthony's mother and uncle. However, let it be remembered, that even though it could be proved that the children were son and daughter of a Daniel Danvers, this would not at all disprove the existence of Samuel and Susan, children of Anthony and Elizabeth, for they might have been born and baptized elsewhere, or though born and baptized at Horley, their names (knowing what we do of the history of the Horley register), may never have been entered, or may have been omitted when the present transcript was written. 4. As already stated, the register of births, deaths and marriages between the years 1598 and 1652 is obviously a transcript of a rough register, in which the entries in question were quite possibly written so indistinctly or inaccurately that the transcriber was led to enter wrongly the name of the father of these children. As we shall have occasion to show, transcripts, such as we have of the original Horley register, need editing, and fortunately we possess plenty of material for the purpose in the case of this portion of the Horley registers. Thus as regards the sons John and Daniel the register of the entries of their baptisms is confirmed by that of the register of Winchester College.

And a word as regards Charles Danvers. In the Horley register, in the year 1701, is record of the burial of Maria, wife of Charles Danvers, and in February, 1702, occurs the record of his marriage at Horley with Susan Palmer. It is very probable that Charles was the youngest son of Anthony Danvers, born after the year 1645, during the years that the register of baptisms is wholly wanting, and that he, having a taste for country rather than town life, settled at Horley.

But to return to Anthony Danvers and his life at Horley.*

---

* Lay Subsidy Roll, A.D. 1609, $\frac{163}{435}$ Oxon, has a full list of Horley residents. Rich^{d} Light heads it, rated in land £10, and following him is

Born in the year 1590, during the glorious period of the Elizabethan era, he came to manhood at a time when the great Queen had been succeeded on her throne by a King whom the majority of his English subjects distrusted or disliked. Outwardly the country was at peace at home and abroad; but the causes of quarrel between James and the people were ever increasing, the former having a full belief in his sovereignty as of Divine right, and persistently acting thereupon; while with the people the idea of authority so based was becoming supplanted by the view that the King derived his power from their will, and might act only as their official.

Unable to obtain supplies of money from his Parliaments, the King in matters secular gave offence by the irregular methods which he employed to raise the funds needed to meet his expenditure, such as the imposition of increased duties upon the customs, the sale of monopolies, benevolences, the sale of peerages, and the foundation of the order of baronets, the members of which were made to pay heavily for their rank. In religious matters the King offended both Roman Catholics and Puritans by his intolerance, and thus, perhaps even more than by his exactions, raised amongst the masses of the people opposition to his rule. His guidance and his example educated his son to follow in his steps; while the growing riches, strength, and unity of purpose of the people prepared them for the struggle in which at length they engaged against the Divine right of kings and intolerance of varied religious beliefs.

When James I. died, in March, 1625, Anthony Danvers had but recently succeeded to his father's property in Horley and Swalecliffe, and no doubt he joined in the general hope and

---

Ed. Yorke, rated in lands £4. In the same roll Sir W^{m} Pope, K^{nt}, is rated only at £25. In the roll $\frac{164}{467}$, of 1627, Horley, Anthony Danvers, gent., is rated in lands at £3—he heads the list. In Wroxton, William, Earl of Downe, is rated at £100. In the roll, $\frac{164}{493}$, of 1641, Anthony Danvers appears in the Horley list. In the roll, $\frac{164}{507}$, of 1674, he is absent, and we have heading the list Sir Charles Wolseley, in lands, £3. The name of Danvers does not appear again in the Lay Subsidy Rolls, nor in the hearth tax rolls of the village.

joy of the nation on the accession of the new King. But his circumstances, and they were shared by many of his friends and neighbours, militated against peace between King and people. First of all, though not wealthy, he was a prospering man, a country gentleman living on his own land—land which was steadily rising in value and resources; he was allied in one way or another with the county families of Northampton, Oxfordshire, and Warwick, and was therefore a man quite in a position to nourish that love of liberty which had found a home amongst others of his order. And, again, Anthony had been brought up in an atmosphere of Puritanism—one which had unquestionably at the time a very strengthening influence upon the characters of those who breathed it, and one which would undoubtedly have fostered in him the religious feeling which was a factor so powerful in the life, social and political, of the period.

History tells us that the feeling of hostility to the government of King Charles was very prominent in Banbury and the surrounding districts, and that this was attributable in no small measure to the influence of the Puritan divines who flourished or had flourished there. Such were Dr. Brasbridge, Vicar of Banbury from 1581-90; Dr. Whately, vicar from 1610-40; Mr. Prime, Vicar of Adderbury, 1589-96; and Dr. John Dod, who, presented to the rectory of Hanwell by Sir Anthony Cope in 1585, was ejected thence for Nonconformity, yet maintained his position as one of the Puritan lecturers at Banbury, and was in 1637 presented to the vicarage of Fawsley. Associated with him in his writings was Mr. Robert Cleaver, Puritan minister of Drayton, a parish bordering on that of Horley, and following Dr. Dod, in 1645, in the rectory of Hanwell was the minister, most famous of all these divines, Dr. Robert Harris, subsequently President of Trinity College, Oxford*—a very able man, strong and steadfast, yet of singularly lovable character. Born in the year 1581, he entered Magdalene Hall, Oxford, in 1597, but after taking one degree in arts, was driven thence because of a fearful plague, and was invited to make his home with Mr.

---

* See his life by W. D., 1660, and Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 285.

Doyley,* a gentleman of ancient family, a great friend to the Gospel, and his wife, a woman of extraordinary knowledge and piety. There he found one Mr. Prior, 'a prudent, godly man,' and preached for him, and evidently made himself so great a name by his conduct and preaching that when Sir Anthony Cope lost Mr. Dod at Hanwell he became a suitor to his brother Doyley (Doyley married Ursula Cope, sister of Sir Anthony) for Mr. Harris. So to Hanwell Harris went to preach to the congregations of that village and of Drayton, from which Dod and Cleaver had been driven. But Archbishop Bancroft, finding no compliance in the silenced ministers (Dod and Cleaver), presented two chaplains to Hanwell and Drayton. Upon which Sir Anthony Cope takes with him Harris and another, and presents them to the Archbishop, who causes them to be examined, the one by his most able chaplain, clearly with a view, if possible, to his rejection on the score of insufficient learning; the other, Harris, by Barlow, Bishop of Rochester, who happened to be present Barlow, being an active and witty fellow, proceeded to try Harris in divinity, but more in other learning, particularly Greek, where the Bishop's strength lay. But so long, says Harris's biographer, they both Greeked it, till at last they were both scoted, and to seek of words; whereupon they both fell a-laughing, and so gave it up. The Archbishop, on Barlow's high report of Harris, and with Dod's and Sir Anthony Cope's consent, gave Harris the rectory of Hanwell, and there he remained for many years, long enough to witness the last days of three successive patrons, Sir Anthony, Sir William, and Sir John Cope. During his long residence at Hanwell Dr. Harris had sundry calls to London, now to the Cross, now to Parliament, and he was one of the Puritan divines who, in the year 1542, was presented as fit to be consulted touching the reformation of Church government and the liturgy. To his house at Hanwell several young students resorted, so that it became a little academy. In his own church he was a constant preacher, and to hear him came troops of Christians from many miles around. What a fair of souls, exclaims his biographer, was then held at Hanwell and Banbury by these two brothers, Harris and Whateley! How did religion flourish! how did professors thrive!

---

* John Doyley, Esq., of Chiselhampton, nephew to Margaret Doyley, who married George Danvers of Banbury.

And in the immediate neighbourhood of these brethren lived Anthony Danvers, and under the influence of their religious teaching his children were brought up. Doubtless the family were amongst the troops of Christians who collected to hear the preaching of Harris and Whateley, and very probably Anthony's sons may have been amongst those who resorted to the little Academy at Hanwell. And thus we are led to a period when the local history of Banbury occupies a conspicuous place in our national annals, for in the immediate neighbourhood were carried on the secret consultations amongst the chiefs of the English malcontents which led to open resistance to the Crown.* Already the Danvers family of Culworth had, in the person of their head, suffered because of the illegal exactions of the King. In May, 1640, Samuel Danvers of Culworth, John Rye of Culworth, Sir Thomas Pope of Aynho, John Danby (Mayor of Northampton), were committed to prison by order of the Council for refusing to pay contributions for coating and conducting the King's soldiers.† The same year began the meetings at Broughton Castle, the seat of Lord Saye, and at Fawsley, the seat of Richard Knightley, Esq., which, on account of their secluded positions, had been chosen by the malcontents for the purpose. The eldest son of Richard Knightley was married to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John Hampden; and at Fawsley, some thirteen miles north-east of Banbury, and at Broughton, Hampden and Pym, St. John, Lord Saye, and Lord Brook, and later on the Earls of Bedford, Essex, and Warwick, Nathaniel Fiennes, and the younger Vane held their sittings. And if Hanwell and Horley had on either side foci of the conspiracy, so it was that when conspiracy ran into action and war broke out, those villages became the battle-ground of the contending armies, and the experiences of Dr. Harris at Hanwell must, to some extent, have been those of Anthony Danvers, a mile distant, at Horley. In August, 1642, Harris was by the King's troopers turned out of his rectory, and the same troop took possession of Hanwell Castle, then the residence of the widowed Lady Cope; and, continues the biographer, after the battle of Edghill 'his troubles were multiplied. Now hee was threatened with this, now with that garrison; here hee was a Roundhead, and there a Malignant; still oppressed with a succession of souldiers quartering upon him.' Doubtless Anthony Danvers had 'protections' on the one side from the King, which he would owe to his connection with the now loyal family of Culworth, with the loyal Danvers (Earl of Danby), and with Pope (Earl of Downe); and on the other from the Parliamentarians which Nathaniel Fiennes would secure for him. But these 'protections,' as the King explains, were merely to preserve their possessions from plundering, but by no means to exempt them from supplying contributions or provisions for the army,* and no doubt Anthony Danvers had many unpleasant visits and demands from parties of the rival forces in the midst of whose operations his village stood. At the commencement of the Civil War the northern part of Oxfordshire, together with the neighbouring parts of Northamptonshire and Warwick, were notably disaffected,† and the castles of Banbury, Warwick, Northampton, and Broughton were in keeping of the malcontents. Lord Saye had command of his own castle of Broughton and of the castle of Banbury, and was not only the keeper of these strongholds, but also, in affairs of State and religion, the chosen leader of almost the entire population of the district around Banbury. Sprung from the same stock as Anthony Danvers, inheriting in common descent from Danvers, Fiennes, and Wykeham, Lord Saye was evidently not unmindful of their kinship, and in the proceedings which we shall presently notice he allows it before the Lords' Committee, and is clearly the member of that committee most active in obtaining redress of his kinsman's grievance. However, leaving that subject for the moment, it is by no means foreign to the history of the Danvers family to take notes of the hostilities which, from the commencement to the end of the Civil War, centred around Banbury Castle.

---

* Beesley's 'Banbury,' p. 291.

† Domestic State Papers, 1640-41.

---

* Letter of January 10, 1642-43, from the King to Lord Northampton, vol. i. of *Transactions of Oxford Archæological Society*, April, 1854.

† Beesley's 'History,' p. 292.

When the King erected his standard at Nottingham on August 22, 1642, Banbury was in possession of his enemies, and on October 15 following 'a great butt filled with plate and money was brought into the Guildhall of London from Banbury for the Parliament's assistance,' and on the 22nd of that month the King, with his army then in the neighbourhood, gave orders for the siege of Banbury. On Sunday, the 23rd, was fought the indecisive battle of Edghill, news of which came to Hanwell that evening by a soldier besmeared with blood and powder. On the 26th the King captured Broughton, and the day following Banbury, with its castle, surrendered, and the castle, with a strong garrison, was placed in charge of the Earl of Northampton. Shortly after Lord Saye was proclaimed a traitor, and he and his son, Nathaniel Fiennes, with Sir William Cobb of Adderbury, and John Doyley, Esq., were excepted from the pardon which the King offered to all persons in Oxfordshire who had been in arms against him.

The King had now his headquarters at Oxford, and the journals of the day give us news of constant skirmishes around the town of Banbury, but the castle was not regularly besieged by the Parliamentarians till July, 1644, when Colonel John Fiennes (brother to Nathaniel) with his forces sat down before the castle, which was defended by Sir William Compton, brother of the Earl of Northampton.

Through August, September, and the greater part of October the siege was hotly carried on, and the garrison were reduced to dire extremities; but their courage never failed, and on October 24 the Earl of Northampton came to their relief, and drove the rebels northwards to the neighbourhood of Horley and Hanwell, where they scattered and dispersed. But though the siege was raised, the neighbourhood of the town was the scene of very frequent skirmishes, and in the year 1646 the castle was again besieged by the rebels, under Colonel Whalley. The commandant was, as before, Sir William Compton, who held the castle till, the King having yielded himself to his enemies, terms were agreed upon for its surrender, and the garrison 'marched out with great content,' the officers with their horses and swords and passes to whither they would go. Immediately upon its surrender the castle was rendered untenable, and two years after, in May, 1648, was, by agreement with its owner, Lord Saye, utterly demolished; the materials were employed for repairing and rebuilding the houses which had suffered during the siege, and now scarce one stone remains upon another of Bishop Alexander's stronghold. Built about the year 1125, in the reign of Henry I., upon, as it is said, the site of a Roman fortification, the castle was no unworthy sister to that of Oxford, erected some fifty years earlier by Robert de Oily, and for upwards of four hundred years it remained one of the main possessions of the Bishops of Lincoln, and as such was intimately connected with the history of the Danvers family. At Bourton, in the immediate neighbourhood, a branch of the family was settled not long after the Conquest, holding their lands, or part of them, as a fief of the Bishops of Lincoln, and on castle-guard tenure of the wardship of Banbury. To the castle, on the accession of each Bishop, the representative of the family went to swear fealty and offer homage, and for the same purpose each new possessor of the estate would do the same. Beneath the shadow of the castle lived Richard Danvers and his wife, Margaret Brancestre, and here five generations of his descendants remained. There also the ancient houses of Doyley and Danvers matched, and the only visible memorial in Banbury of the name of either family is the pane of glass in the oriel of Colthorpe House which records that event.

Anthony Danvers sympathized, we suspect, with the Puritan party—the party to which there can be little doubt his father leaned, and which probably led to his establishing himself at Horley, in a neighbourhood dominated by Puritan influences. And evidence of Anthony's leanings on religious matters may be found in his joining Sir William Cope in disclaiming arms in the Herald's visitation of 1634, in his sending his sons to Winchester at a time when the college was distinctly under Puritan influence, in his alliance with Lord Saye, the leader of the Malcontents, and in the fact that, no doubt owing to their home training, his sons, John and Daniel, joined the Nonconformists.

In the year 1640 Anthony Danvers petitioned the House of Lords that his sons, as Founder's kin, might be elected scholars of Winchester College, and the proceedings which thereupon followed show that his suit was successful.

A. Petition of Anthony Danvers, December 24, 1640.

To the Right Hono^ble^ the Lords assembled in the Higher house of Parliament.

The humble petition of Anthony Danvers.

Humbly sheweth,

That in all eleccons of Schollers into y^e^ Colledges by Winton & of New Colledg in Oxon, founded by William of Wickham, amongst all the Schollers, w^ch^ shalbe psented & examined or posed at y^e^ said Eleccons, in the first place & afore all others they are to be elected w^ch^ are of the kindred of y^e^ ffounder of y^e^ said Colledge in case any such shalbe tendered, and that noe other are to be placed before them in the Elleccon Indentures, as it is most evident by the Statutes of both y^e^ said Colledges.

Now yo^r^ humble pet^r^, being undoubtedly of the kindred of y^e^ ffounder of y^e^ said Colledge, hath for this 4 yeares past, at 4 severall eleccons tendered his sonne John Danvers unto y^e^ Wardene and Schoolm^r^ of y^e^ said Colledge by Winton & to y^e^ other electors respectively in their severall yeares, according to y^e^ forme & custome of these Eleccons, & yo^r^ peticoner's sonne hath been examined or posed in the said severall eleccons & not any way found insufficiente or uncapable of being elected Scholler or childe of y^e^ said Colledg by Winton.

Whereupon yo^r^ peticoner did earnestly sollicite y^e^ said Wardene and Schoole M^r^ w^th^ y^e^ other Electors in y^e^ severall yeares respectively, to make choyce of his sonne & to place him upon the Role or Indentures of y^e^ Eleccon, that soe he might be capable of being made Childe or Scholler of y^e^ said Colledg by Winton. And yo^r^ pet^r^ did alleadg y^t^ he was of y^e^ kindred of the founder of y^e^ said Colledge & did both entreate & require y^e^ said Wardene & Schoole M^r^ and other Electors, according to y^e^ tenor of y^e^ Colledg Statute in y^t^ behalf, to elect & place his sonne as those, w^{ch} are of y^{e} kindred of y^{e} founder, ought to be placed.

Notwithstanding w^{ch} importunity and earnest suite of yo^{r} peticoner unto y^{e} said Wardene & Schoole M^{r} & other Electors, at his charge & trouble of taking severall jorneys to Winchester at the severall eleccons, & alsoe of Breeding his sonne at Schoole in hopes of preferring him into y^{e} said Colledg by Winton, by vertue of y^{e} auntiente & ever prevailing Privelidg of a founder's kinsman, granted unto him by the Statutes of y^{e} said Colledge, wh^{ch} have ever been allowed & confirmed by Acte of Parliamente, The said Wardene, Schoole M^{r} & other Electors notwithstanding have denyed to receive or admitt his sonne tendered at y^{e} severall eleccons this 4$\frac{1}{3}$ yeares last past, alleadging that they could not admitt him because the number of y^{e} founder's kindred were full, whereas by y^{e} Statute of y^{e} said Colledg the number of y^{e} kindred is not to be restreined, But others w^{ch} are not of y^{e} kindred are onely to be elected & admitted in defecte of y^{e} kindred, there being not enough in number of y^{e} founder's kindred to supply y^{e} places w^{ch} shalbe voyd.

Moreover yo^{r} peticoner humbly sheweth that y^{e} Wardene, Schoole M^{r} & other Electors having refused to admitt yo^{r} pet$^{r's}$ sonne at any of these 4 Eleccons last past, yo^{r} pet$^{r's}$ sonne is now about 15 years old, and soe now, by reason of his age, is made uncapable of being admitted into y^{e} said Colledg of Winton, according to y^{e} tenor of y^{e} Statute of y^{e} Colledg in that behalf, to y^{e} greate wronge and prejudice of yo^{r} said peticoner.

Now yo^{r} humble peticoner prayeth this most hono^{ble} house, That, whereas y^{e} Wardene, Schoole M^{r} & other Electors of y^{e} said Colledge have, contrary to y^{e} Statute of y^{e} above-named Colledge & their severall oathes, taken in y^{e} said Colledge, denyed to receave and admitt yo^{r} pet$^{r's}$ sonne to be a Scholler of y^{e} Colledg by Winton, to y^{e} greate injury of all y^{e} founder's kindred in generall, whoe have right to claime the same privilidge in those eleccons, & to y^{e} great damage & trouble of yo^{r} humble peticoner in perticuler. This high & most hono^{ble} house would take into their consideracone y^{e} wronge yo^{r} peticoner hath suffered by y^{e} unjust proceedinge of y^{e} Wardene, Schoole M^{r} & other y^{e} Electors in y^{e} severall Eleccons for y^{e} said New Colledg in Oxford & y^{e} Colledg by Winton.

And yo^{r} peticoner shall pray (as duty binds) for the happy successe of all yo^{r} greate affaires.

ANTHONY DANVERS.

Endorsed: 'Danvers. Rec. xxiiij^{o} Dec. 1640, L[e]c[t]a eod[e]m die.'

B. DRAFT (CORRECTED) OF LETTER FROM LORDS' COMMITTEE TO THE WARDEN OF WINCHESTER COLLEGE, REQUIRING HIM TO ATTEND WITH THE STATUTES OF THE COLLEGE. JAN. 9, 1640.

[MR. WARDEN],*

Whearas uppon the complaynt of [Mr. Danvers]* Anthony Danvers, of Horley, gentleman, that he beinge of kinred to your founder, hath offered his sonn att the Election into the Colledge [of]* *near* Winchester four yeares togeather, and hath bin refused by you, that wear the Electors, contrary to the Statutes *of your houses** & contrary to your oath, to his great prejudice & charge, and that thearuppon we, the Lords' Committees for Petitions hathe (*sic*) sent to the Warden of New Colledg, requiring him to attend the Committee & bring with him the Statutes of that Colledg, whearby the truth may appear unto us in this cause, we doe likewise require you the Warden & Schoolmaster of the Colledge near Winton to attend att the same time and bring with you the Statutes of your house, you three being constant Electors unto those colledges.

And so we rest
yo^{r} loving friends.

Parl. House.
9^{o} Januar.
164[0-1]

To o^{r} very loving freind the Warden of the Colledge neere Winchester.

Endorsed: '9 Januar. 164 '[0-1] 'A lr̃e to y^{e} Warden of Winton College.'

---

* Corrections in the draft; the words in brackets being struck through, and those in italics here being added.

C.—*Veneris, vicesimo secundo die Januarii* 1640 [1640-41].

Upon a Petition to the Lords' Committees appointed by the Lords of Parliament to receive Petitions, delivered by Anthony Danvers, Gent., shewing that he being of kindred unto the R^{t} Hon^{ble} William, Lord Viscount Say & Seale, and thereby of kindred to William of Wickham, Bishop of Winton and founder of the Colledge neare Winton, & of New Colledge in Oxford, having offered his son to be received into the Colledge near Winton, *according to the privilege of founder's kinsman*,* by the space of 4 yeares at their *yearly** elections, and being delayed and at length denied; It was reported unto this House by the said Lords' Committees, that they having sent for the 2 Wardens and the Schoolmaster of Winton, who are constantly Electors into the College of Winton, upon examination of the cause, and submission of the two Wardens and the consent of all parties; It was reported by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, that a full satisfaction should be given by the said Warden unto Mr. Anthony Danvers for the charges he had been put unto, and for the damages he had received by the refusall of his sonne, and not admitting him into the College neare Winton, according to the priviledge of a founder's kinsman, and according to the founder's statutes, and that at the next election he should be admitted into the College, *and have some convenient maintenance in the meantime*†*;* and for the tyme to come both the Wardens did promise that the founder's kindred should be admitted without all difficulty, according to the Statutes of the Colleges concerning the admission of founder's kinsmen; and the Lord Bishop of Winchester for his part, as visitor of the Colleges, did likewise promise that he would take care the same should be performed; and the Lords' Committees did further deliver it as their opinion that a memorial hereof should be entered in the Journal Book of the *Lords House** of Parliament, if their Lordships should so think fit, to prevent the like wrongs in time to come that might be offered to the founder's kinsmen; which was ordered accordingly.

* Interlined, but in same hand as the draft.

† Interlined in a separate hand.

And upon a motion of the Lord Viscount Say and Seale, it was further ordered by the House, that the clerk of the Lords' House should deliver 4 copies thereof, one to the Lord Viscount Say and Seale, as chief founder's kinsman, another to the Lord Bishop of Winton, and one to each College.

Endorsed: 'Copie of an order concerning Winchester College, 22 Jan. 1640.'

EXTRACT FROM LORDS' MS. MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 1640-41, BEING ROUGH NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

22 *Jan.*, 1640 [1640-1].

Reported, That the founder of Winchester did ordein that his kindred before others.

One Mr.   Danvers, being one of the kindred, hath (*illegible*) & denyed.

Ordered, The parties interested are content that he shall be elected next election, & a convenient allowance of his charges in this business in seekinge for his right.

That a Memoriall be made in this House.

That four Coppies be made, 1 to the [? founder's kinsman], 1 to the B^p of Winton, and [2] to the 2 Colledges.

The printed journals of January 22, 1640-41 (L. J., iv. 140), set out Danvers' petition almost *in extenso*, and then add as follows:

'And the Lords' Committees did further deliver it as their opinions, That a Memorial hereof should be entered in the Journal Book of the Lords' House of Parliament, if their Lordships should so think fit, to prevent the like wrongs in time to come, that might be offered to the Founder's kinsmen; which was ordered accordingly.'

There is no record of the proceedings in the Committee for Petitions (to whom Danvers' petition was referred), no Committee books of that period existing; but papers (B) and (C) help to show what was done in Committee, and supply information not given in the printed journals.

It was January, 1640-41, when the Lords' Committee ordered that John, the eldest son of Anthony Danvers, of

Horley, should be admitted to Winchester College at the next election, having in the meantime some convenient maintenance; and under this order he was, according to the custom of the time, admitted a commoner until a vacancy should fall due, and in 1641 was elected a scholar. John was at the time 16 years of age—late to begin school life—but as his father states in his petition, he had for four years past sought his son's election, and had prepared him for Winchester 'by breeding him at schoole.' However, at last Anthony Danvers had gained his point, and doubtless with no small satisfaction started with his son from Horley for Winchester. They would travel on horseback by Banbury to Oxford, and thence across the Berkshire Downs to Newbury, passing on their way Chilton, Winterbourne, and other places, once the home of their ancestral kinsmen. On the third day the travellers would reach Winchester, where both father and son were well known by name to the warden, Dr. Harris, for it was because of them that he had been ordered to appear before the Lords' Committee to answer for having, contrary to the statutes of his house, and contrary to his oath, and to their great prejudice and charge, refused to elect the boy to the college. But no doubt all that had been forgiven, if not forgotten, and a gracious reception awaited Anthony Danvers and his son, the more so as the then warden, Harris, in common with all thinking men, must have foreseen the coming storm, and would not miss an opportunity of commending himself to the good will of a family so powerful with the Opposition as was that of Fiennes. We read, indeed, that Warden Harris had friends on both sides. He was able to send to the King at Oxford in 1644 for letters of protection, while at the same time he was the good friend and correspondent of Nathaniel Fiennes, a former scholar of Winchester, and a partaker of the hospitality of the college when, in 1642, he was on his way with a troop of horse to join Waller in the West Country. And indeed, through Warden Harris's good management, it happened that throughout the Civil War the college never suffered further damage than the occasional billeting of soldiers. Even the statue of the Virgin and Child, which the founder placed in a niche over the great gateway, remained unharmed; and when, after

Naseby, Cromwell captured Winchester, blew up the castle, and wrecked the cathedral, the college (and the founder's tomb alone of the monuments in the cathedral) escaped damage, and flourished throughout the Commonwealth.

And apart from the controversy regarding John's election, the name of Danvers was not unknown at Winchester, for William Danvers and Joan, his wife, of the Berkshire family, were benefactors to Wykeham's foundation, and as such were remembered in the college chapel. In the Computus Roll of 1546, which contains the list of obits celebrated that year for the last time, we find, on January 19, the names of Sir William Danvers, Knight, and Dame Joan, his widow, and Maud, Countess of Oxford.

And so the boy is left at school—a big fellow, strong in mind and body, of fearless, independent character, well suited to face the trials and hardships of his new surroundings. Perhaps this was for the first time that he had slept away from home and friends, and very possibly he found his dormitory on the ground floor of the chamber court but a cold and cheerless lodging. At five in the morning he would be roused by the first peal, and, rising, would join in the psalms, which it was then the custom to sing at that hour. Then the chamber is put in order; the boys comb their hair, make their beds, and wash their faces and hands in the conduit beneath the open portico in the court, and, lastly, say their private prayers in the chamber or, if they so wish, in the college chapel. At half-past five second peal rang for morning chapel, and at six the boys went into school till nine. The schoolroom was the chamber now known as 'seventh,' and here all the boys assembled. The room had no fireplace, but was 'warmed by the sun and the heat from the breath of the boys, which was sufficient to keep it warm.' On Tuesdays and Thursdays the boys, in the place of morning school, went to 'hills' or to 'meads,' or, if the weather was very bad, to hall fire. To hills or meads they walked two and two, and when there played quoits, or football, or a game resembling the 'rounders' of the present day.

At nine o'clock was breakfast—bread and meat and beer—the meat served in wooden trenchers, and eaten with the help of the boys' own knives. At eleven the bell rang for middle school, which continued till noon, when dinner was served—bread and meat (mutton or beef) and beer again. At two o'clock afternoon school began, and at half-past three was a short interval, when bread and beer were served out. At five o'clock the whole school went 'circum,' chanting hymns and psalms, but in the seventeenth century 'circum' proper was discontinued. Yet the boys still went to the bench in the ambulatory to say their evening prayers. After 'circum' was a supper of meat and broth and bread and beer in hall, and then the boys remained in their chambers till eight, when evensong was said, after which they went to bed.

The course of study, in accordance with the founder's intention, seems to have been pre-eminently classical, Wykeham, in his preamble to the charter of foundation asserting his belief that a knowledge of Latin is the 'janua et origo omnium liberatium artium.' The sixth form read Homer, Virgil, Cicero, Hesiod, Martial, and Robinson's rhetoric. The fifth much the same books. The fourth Ovid, Cicero's 'Offices,' and Terence. Religious instruction was very fully given in the Bible, and with the help of Dean Nowell's catechism. The teaching of this catechism is very much that of our Church Catechism, but it is very wordy, and at the Hampton Court Conference, in 1604, was considered too long for novices to learn by heart, which, indeed, it is, or rather would certainly be so considered by the schoolboy of the present age. The last two paragraphs, which are appended, will illustrate the style of the catechism.

'I will do my diligence, worshipful master, and omit nothing, so much as I am able to do; and with all my strength and power will endeavour that I may answer the profession and name of a Christian. And also I will humbly, with all prayers and desires, always crave of Almighty God that He suffer not the seed of His doctrine to perish in my heart, as sown in a dry and barren soil, but that He will, with the Divine dew of His grace, so water and make fruitful the dryness and barrenness of my heart, that I may bring forth plentiful fruits of godliness to be bestowed and laid up in the barn and granary of the kingdom of heaven.

'*M.* Do so, my child; and doubt not, but as thou hast, by God's guiding, conceived this mind and will, so thou shalt find and have the issue and end of this thy godly study and endeavour, such as thou desirest and lookest for, that is most good and happy.'*

The school-life of the boys in those days was physically a trying one, and it is not matter for wonder that sickness and mortality amongst them was far heavier than amongst their nineteenth-century successors. The boys were, however, well taught, and those of them who were sufficiently vigorous to maintain their health, learnt in a rough school, manliness, self-reliance, and independence.

Scholars once admitted to the college might remain upon the foundation until twenty-five years of age, and it is therefore possible that John Danvers was in college when Thomas Ken was admitted in the year 1646. Ken, afterwards the saintly Bishop, has always been reckoned amongst the greatest of Wykeham's children, and his name, carved by himself in two places upon the stones of the cloisters, is amongst the most reverenced of the college memorials.

John Danvers must have left college some years before his brother Daniel was, in the year 1658, at the age of thirteen, elected a scholar. We do not find the name of either of the brothers inscribed on the walls of the chambers at Winchester, but on the third buttress on the south side of the cloisters, within a rectangular border, a large D.D. in Roman letters is deeply cut, and the chances are at least even that these are the initials of Daniel Danvers, for such initials occur but twice only amongst the names of the boys during the period in which the practice of cutting initials in the cloisters prevailed.† These are Daniel Danvers, admitted in 1658, and David Donelly in 1617.

To return to Anthony Danvers. Possibly, in years gone by, he had not been ignorant of the secret councils which occupied his friends and relatives at Broughton,‡ Hanwell and Fawsley, and led to the outbreak of the Great Rebellion, and now in his old age negotiations, having however a very different object, are again being carried on in the same neighbourhood. Young Sir Anthony Cope, of Hanwell, the son of Sir John, though brought up amongst Parliamentarians, early devoted himself to the loyal cause, and with him at Hanwell lived Richard Allestree, who was the principal agent of communication between the loyal gentlemen of that part of the country and the King in his exile. Sir Anthony was one of the promoters of the address from the gentlemen of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, which in January, 1660, was presented to General Monk in London, asking him to call a full and free Parliament. Shortly after this followed the Restoration, when 'amidst the joy of all England, except the army, Charles returned to his kingdom.'

---

* Nowell's Catechism, Parker Society, 1853.

† Cf. Kirby's 'Winchester Scholars,' London, 1888; also 'Inscriptiones Wiccamicæ,' Winchester, 1885.

‡ Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 471.

But it would appear that in the meantime the Danvers family had left Horley for London, for no record of the existence of any of them at Horley can be discovered, subsequent to that of the birth of Daniel in the year 1644, until that of the second marriage of Charles Danvers at the beginning of the next century.

Puritanism was falling into disfavour in the country; the people, naturally joyous, longed for the amusements and merry-makings which for some twenty years had been the forbidden 'fleshpots of Egypt.' Many of Anthony's old friends were dead, while others saw, as a time not far distant, the day when they might have to take their turn of disgrace or exile. Anthony's younger brother William, and his cousin, George Danvers of Ratley, were prosperous business men in the City, and this and the marriage of his eldest sister with a London tradesman, had attracted John, the eldest son of Anthony, to a business life, and so it came to pass, that about the year 1653 Anthony Danvers and his wife and children left Horley, and settled in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn. Frances, the eldest daughter, born in the year 1626, was married,* when about twenty years of age, to a neighbour, . . . Burton, but he died shortly after, and Frances returned to Horley, and on March 31, 1651, was married at St. Andrew's, Holborn, to Mr. Stoughton Arnold—'Stoughton Arnold of this parish (St. Andrew's) and Frances Burton, of Horley, Oxford, widow.' Either Mr. Arnold was a widower when he married or his father's name, which is not unlikely, was also Stoughton, for in the year 1660 we find the license for marriage* of Samuel Danvers, of St. John Baptist, near Dowgate, London, bachelor, aged about twenty-five, to Abigail Arnold, spinster, aged eighteen, daughter of Stoughton Arnold, of St. Andrew's, Holborn. This Danvers was first cousin to Frances Danvers, the son of her father's brother William.

---

* No records of marriages in the Horley Register at this period, see p. 411. We learn from the Lay Subsidy Rolls that there were families of the name in villages in the neighbourhood of Horley.

Mr. Arnold is styled 'gentleman' in one of the entries in the parish register, and he was therefore of gentle birth. Possibly his Christian name indicates a match between one of his paternal ancestors and a member of the old Surrey family of Stoughton. His son, Samuel, was buried in St. Andrew's churchyard on February 7, 1664-65. No doubt it was a relative of his, probably his son, who signs as a witness, as we shall see, to the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers.

The second marriage in the family was that of the second daughter, Elizabeth, born in the year 1628, and this marriage also was celebrated at St. Andrew's, Holborn, September 28, 1654—'Edmund Chillenden, Esq., and Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, both of . . . . parish.' Probably both husband and wife died in the plague year, 1665, for in 1667 we find Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers (sen.) making provision in her will for her grandchild, Edmund Chillenden, and committing him to the care of her eldest son, John Danvers.

The third marriage was that of the third daughter, Penelope (born in 1632). 'At St. Andrew's, Holborn, August 9, 1657, Samuel Draper of . . . . and Penellipey Danvers of this parish.'

The marriage of the fourth daughter, Susan Cleaveland, is not recorded in the St. Andrew's register. We shall presently recur to it.

In the year 1663† Anthony Danvers, Esq., and his wife,

---

* Marriage licenses issued by Vicar-General.

† Oxon Fine, 15 Charles II., Trinity term.

Feet of Fines, *Oxford*, 15 *Charles II.*, *No.* 14.

Hec est finalis Concordia fca in Cur đni Regis apud Westm̃ in Crastino Sce Trinitatis Anno regnoz Caroli scdi Dei gra Angl Scocie

Elizabeth, and John Danvers, gentleman—that was the usual way of introducing the eldest son—sold the manor of Horley and its appurtenances, very much as Anthony had bought them, to Sir Charles Wolseley, who was married to the sister of Nathaniel Fiennes.

We have no record of the sale of the small property which Anthony Danvers bought in Horley and Chipping-Norton, and it is not unlikely that he retained it with the intention of settling his son Charles amongst the old neighbours of the family.

At the time of the sale of Horley manor, Anthony Danvers was 73 years of age, and it is probable that he died not long after, and perhaps was amongst the many unrecorded victims of the great plague, which raged fiercely in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn.*

Charles Danvers, whom we have reason to think was the son of Anthony, married his second wife, Susannah Palmer, at

---

ffranc et Hibne Regis fidei defens etc a Conqu quintodecimo Coram Orlando Bridgeman Robto Hyde Thoma Tirrell et Samuele Browne Justic et aliis dni Regis fielibz tunc ibi ꝓsentibz Int Carolum Wolseley Baronettum quer et Antoniū Danvers Armigum et Elizabeth vxem eius et Johem Danvers genosum deforc de Manio de Horley cum ꝑtiñ Ac de vno mesuagio vno tofto vno Columbario vno gardino vno pomario Centum et quadraginta acris tre decem acris prati Centum acris pasture quadraginta acris Jampnoz et bruere et quindecim solidat reddit cum ꝑtiñ in Horley vnde Plitm Conúencõis sum fuit int eos in eadem Cur Scilt qd ꝓdci Antonius et Elizabeth et Johes recogñ ꝓdca Maniū et teñ cum ꝑtiñ esse ius ipius Caroli vt ill que idem Carolus het de dono ꝓdcoz Antonii et Elizabeth et Johis et ill remiser et quietclam̃ de ipis Antonio et Elizabeth et Johe et hered suis ꝓdco Carolo et hered suis imꝑpm et ꝓdca iidem Antonius et Elizabeth Concesser ꝑ se et hered ipius Antonii qd ipi Warant ꝓdco Carolo et hered suis ꝓdca Maniū et teñ cum ꝑtiñ Contᵃ ꝓdcos Antoniū et Elizabeth et hered ipius Antonii imꝑpm Et vltius idem Johes concessit ꝑ se et hered suis qd ipi Warant ꝓdco Carolo et hered suis ꝓdca Maniū et teñ cum ꝑtiñ Contᵃ ꝓdcm Johem et hered suos imꝑpm Et ꝑ hac recogñ remissione quietclam̃ Warant fine et Concordia idem Carolus dedit ꝓdcis Antonio et Elizabeth et Johi trescentas libras sterlingoz, Oxoñ.

* In November, 1668, was an administration by his creditors to the effects of Anthony Danvers of Eastham, Essex, his wife Martha having renounced. Clearly this was not Anthony of Horley.

Horley on February 9, 1702. The baptisms of their children are entered in the register as follows: 'November 5, 1703, Martha; 1707, May 21, Charles; 1705, August 22, Maria.' Towards the end of the register is an affidavit, made in the year 1775, that Richard Danvers of Wardington was born in Horley in the year 1715, and that the register of his baptism was by mistake omitted. Richard was doubtless the son of Charles Danvers. Martha Danvers, on June 7, 1747, married at Horley James Gardner of Geydon—the last Danvers entry in the register.

In the year 1667 Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers died, and was buried on October 10 in the churchyard of St. Andrew's, Holborn. The churchyard has disappeared, having made way for the Holborn Viaduct and its approaches; but the church stands on the ancient site, and encased within its tower is the lower part of the fifteenth-century tower, the only portion of the ancient church which has escaped the restorer's zeal. Old things and new are strangely brought together by the venerable Gothic arch which opens from the tower into Wren's Italian Church.

At the period of which we are writing the churchyard must have been a mournful place, for the parish of St. Andrew's was one of those which were very heavily stricken by the great plague of the year 1665, and the plague pit and innumerable graves then bore melancholy evidence to the violence of the visitation.

The record in the register of Mrs. Danvers' death states that she was buried from Bishop's Head Court in Gray's Inn Lane. The court remains still, as Stowe describes it, pretty large and indifferent, well built and inhabited, with a narrow entrance. The houses are modern, but the court retains no doubt its ancient dimensions, and was of old, as now, open to the north towards the buildings of Gray's Inn. A quiet spot, near to her eldest daughter Arnold's house, the court gave Mrs. Danvers a resting-place amongst her children for her latest years.

In her will, which was nuncupative, made in July, 1667 (Carr, 131), Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers leaves half her little property to her eldest son, John, charging him to take care of her grandchild, Edmund Chillenden, and the remainder she divides between her sons, Samuel and Daniel, her daughters, Arnold and Cleaveland and Anne Danvers (youngest daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth) and her grandchildren, Edmund Chillenden and Elizabeth Cleaveland.

Of the sons of Anthony and Elizabeth, John, Samuel, and Daniel were established as sugar-refiners, the elder two at Battersea, Daniel at Liverpool. We know nothing more of the second son, Anthony. Probably he died and was buried at Horley during one of the years of which any record is wanting in the parish register. Of the daughters, three as already mentioned were married at St. Andrew's; one, the youngest, remained unmarried at the time of her mother's death. Susannah, the other daughter, does not appear to have been married at St. Andrew's; but the marriage is recorded in the pedigree of the Cleavelands of Hinckley, Leicester, in Nichols' 'History of Leicestershire' (vol. iv., part ii., p. 707). The Rev. William Cleaveland, Vicar of Hinckley, had eleven children, of whom the eldest son, John, was the famous Royalist poet. His youngest brother, Richard, was baptized at Hinckley in September, 1633. According to Nichols, he married the 'daughter of . . . Danvers, Esq., of Oxfordshire, near Banbury.' Unfortunately, Nichols does not give the Christian names of father or daughter, yet there can be no reasonable doubt they were Anthony and Susanna; for Anthony Danvers, who lived at Horley, two or three miles from Banbury, was the only man of his name who, so far as can be discovered, was at the time living in the neighbourhood of Banbury. Susanna Danvers was born at Horley in 1638, and was therefore five years younger than Richard Cleaveland. Richard, so Nichols tells us, became a merchant at Liverpool, a sugar-baker he in his will calls himself, and acquired a large fortune. He left but one daughter, Elizabeth, the Elizabeth Cleaveland mentioned in the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers of Holborn, and as he had no son, he adopted John, the son of his brother Joseph.

Richard Cleaveland died on November 2, 1683, and was buried in the church or churchyard of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, where his death is registered. Two years later, February 3, 1685, died his widow, Susanna Cleaveland, and her death also is entered in the register of St. Nicholas Church. The wills of both husband and wife are in the Probate Office at Chester. Richard's was made in October, 1683. He mentions his nephew, John Cleaveland, who at the time was living with him, and his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Percivall; also he mentions his wife Susanna; one of the witnesses to the will is Daniel Danvers.

Susanna Cleaveland's will is dated November 7, 1685. She mentions her brother, Daniel Danvers; her cousin, John Cleaveland; her cousin, John Arnold (one of the witnesses to the will of Elizabeth Danvers); and her daughter, Elizabeth Percivall, of Liverpool, widow.

Thus we learn that the Christian name of the 'daughter Cleaveland' of Elizabeth Danvers' will was Susanna, and we are able to account for all the daughters of Anthony Danvers and his wife; while Susanna's will also identifies Daniel Danvers of Liverpool with Daniel, son of Elizabeth Danvers, of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

John Cleaveland became a very wealthy man, was Mayor of Liverpool in 1703, and represented the town in Parliament 1710-13. He died in 1716, and was buried in St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool.

John Cleaveland, the poet, died at his house in Gray's Inn in the year 1658, and it is quite probable that his presence in the immediate neighbourhood of the Arnold family introduced his brother Richard to Susanna Danvers.

John Danvers, the eldest son of Anthony, was prepared, by his training at Winchester and by the influence of the stirring times of his early life, for a career more enterprising and intellectual than would have been his lot as a country squire of small estate. Doubtless he realized that for him the way to wealth was the way of trade, and that in London he would find opportunities which his vigorous mind assured him he could turn to good account. Nor was the step he took an unusual one; for long years past it had been the way for the sons of country gentlemen to enter trade; only a few years later (in 1669) we find the Corporation of Liverpool stating as one reason of the increase of the inhabitants of that town that many gentlemen's sons of the counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, etc., were put apprentice in the town. 'The junior members of a gentle family went into trade. The occasion of that irruption of false pride relative to "soiling the hands with trade" was the great change that ensued after Queen Anne's reign, and it was amongst the children of the men who, having amassed fortunes in trade, were taking the place of an impoverished aristocracy, that there sprang up such a contempt for whatever savoured of the shop or the counting-house.'*

And so to London John Danvers came, and probably took counsel with his uncle William and his brother-in-law, Stoughton Arnold, as to his future career. Eventually he became a sugar-refiner at Battersea, and it may be that it was partly by his marriage that his career was settled. Anyhow, we know that he married Susan, the daughter of Allan Smith, of Nether Pillerton, in Warwickshire, and that he was associated at Battersea with Mr. Smith, the great sugar-refiner, who, as we shall see subsequently, introduced the sugar-refining business into the town of Liverpool.

At Battersea John Danvers had as his partner his brother Samuel, and both brothers appear to have prospered in their business. As we learn from his will, John had in the year 1677 two sons, John and Daniel, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary; but in a codicil added the following year he states that his son John and his daughter Mary had died. Shortly before his death John Danvers bought the manor and lordship of West Newland in Dengie Hundred, Essex, with the manor house and appurtenances; so perhaps he was thinking of ending his days in the country, leaving his brother Samuel and his son Daniel to carry on the business at Battersea. In his will he leaves a legacy of £1,000 to his cousin, Edmund Chillenden, mindful of the charge which his mother on her death-bed had given to him; and he leaves also a legacy to Mr. John Gosnold, pastor of the congregation to which he belonged. A famous man was Mr. Gosnold, a man of great learning and piety, and, albeit a Baptist minister, a friend and companion of Archbishop Tillotson's, a man who could gather a congregation of 3,000, including many clergymen, to his chapel in the Barbican to hear his sermons.* He did not long survive his friend, John Danvers, but died in October of the same year.

---

* See S. Baring Gould's 'Old Country Life,' London, 1890; and Walter Besant's 'London,' pp. 159 and 319, London, 1893.

John Danvers appointed as overseers of his will (Reave, 109) his loving brothers, Mr. Samuel Danvers, Mr. James Child, and Mr. Allan Smith.

In the Close Roll of 30 Charles II. we find an indenture, dated December 4 of that year, in which Samuel Danvers makes over the Newlands property to Susan, relict of John Danvers, and receives an acknowledgment from her and from her son Daniel and her daughter Elizabeth that he had faithfully executed the trust of his brother John.

The property did not, however, long remain with the family, for in the Close Roll of 13 George I. we find Daniel Danvers, son and heir of John Danvers, late of Battersea, selling it.† This Daniel was evidently unfortunate in business, for in 1746 his cousin, Daniel Danvers, of Bath and Liverpool, made provision for him, and for the maintenance and education of his children. Not long after this he died, in the year 1753, his creditors administering his estate.

* Neale's 'History of the Puritans,' vol. v., p. 201.

† Close Roll, 13 George I., part xvi., No. 8.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER XIII.

This appears to be an appropriate place in which to summarize the evidence (1) that Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, who died in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, in the year 1667, was the widow of Anthony Danvers, of Horley, Oxfordshire; (2) that Anthony and Elizabeth Danvers, of Horley, had, besides other children, two named Samuel and Susanna.*

In the year 1617 Daniel Danvers and his son Anthony bought the manor of Horley, and at Horley Daniel and his wife, Susanna, died and were buried in, respectively, the years 1623-24 and 1628. About the year 1623 Anthony Danvers married his wife, Elizabeth, and with her lived at Horley till after the birth of their son, Daniel, in the year 1644. Subsequent to the year 1652, neither in the parish registers, Lay Subsidy Rolls, nor elsewhere have we evidence of the presence in Horley of Anthony or any of his family, until in the year 1702 appears in the register the marriage of a Charles Danvers.

In June, 1624, the baptism of John, the eldest son of Anthony Danvers, was registered at Horley; in June, 1626, Frances, the eldest daughter, was baptized; then followed Elizabeth, in August, 1628; Anthony, December, 1630; Penelope, February, 1632-33; Samuel, August, 1635; Susanna, March, 1638; Anne, May, 1639; Daniel, January, 1644. In the register, Samuel and Susanna are entered as the children of 'Daniel' Danvers.

A few words regarding the Horley registers.† From the commencement until the year 1598, the entries are in various handwritings, and are probably the original contemporaneous record. At the beginning of the year 1652 a double line, with crosses between, X X X, is drawn across the page of the book, as if to mark a new beginning, and the registers thereafter are roughly, but, it would seem, contemporaneously, kept up. Between the years 1598 and 1652 the handwriting is uniform, clear and clerkly, evidently that of a scribe employed to copy, into the space left vacant, from a rough register which had probably been kept by the clerk of the parish. *There are no entries of marriages for the years* 1643-1651 *inclusive—none of burials for the years* 1639-1651*—none of baptisms for the years* 1646-1651.

---

* See also Anthony Danvers of Horley in the foregoing chapter.

† See pages 411, 412.

The Horley registers are an example of what was at the time the rule in most English parishes—a rough register or notes kept by a clerk and from time to time transcribed in the register. The errors and omissions resulting from this way of keeping the registers became so manifold and glaring that in Queen Anne's reign Convocation took up the subject. The errors and omissions in the early parish registers have been dwelt upon by many writers, *e.g.*, Chester-Waters' 'Parish Registers,' Burns' 'History of Parish Registers,' etc. Recently, and very forcibly, by the Bishop of Nottingham in an article in a Lincoln periodical.

Therefore the entries in the Horley *transcript* of Susanna and Samuel as children of *Daniel* Danvers need corroboration, and must be taken in connection with other evidence as regards their parentage; and let it be noted that if these were children of a Daniel Danvers, there is a noticeable gap in the sequence of the births of Mrs. Anthony Danvers' children. Moreover, this Daniel, if he existed, must have been of the same generation as Anthony Danvers and of the same family, for none of the other branches used the names Daniel and Samuel, or had any connection with Horley; but though we have very full records of the family for the period in the registers of Culworth and Thorpe Mandeville, many wills and other deeds of the family, Lay Subsidy Rolls of these villages and of Horley (in two of the latter Anthony Danvers is included), we can nowhere, but in the transcript of the original register of Horley—made quite likely from the rough and faded notes of a more or less illiterate parish clerk—find any mention of this Daniel Danvers.

Anyhow, Mrs. Anthony Danvers might have borne two children, Samuel and Susanna, at the period in question, children who were baptized elsewhere, or whose names have not been entered in the transcript, the rough notes having been lost, as often happened. The absence of any record of them in the existing Horley register would not in the least disprove their existence.

To return to Anthony Danvers and his children: two of them, John and Daniel, were on the foundation of Winchester College, and were entered in the college register as sons of Anthony Danvers, of Horley.

In the year 1663 (Oxon Fine, No. 14 of 15 Charles II.) Anthony Danvers, Esq., of Horley, his wife, Elizabeth, and John Danvers, gentleman (the eldest son was usually included if alive and of age), sold the manor of Horley to his relative, Sir Charles Wolseley (we do not find he sold all the land which he bought with the manor, and it is not improbable that he had a son, Charles, who elected for country life, remained in the parish, and was the Charles Danvers who appears in the Horley register in the year 1702; this is, however, outside the main question).

When Anthony Danvers sold Horley he was seventy-three years of age. We have no record of his death. The fine is very valuable, as giving the Christian name of Anthony's wife, Elizabeth, and as showing that she was alive in the year 1663.

Subsequently to the year 1644, we have no evidence for the next fifty years and more from the Horley register of the presence of any member of Anthony's numerous family in the parish. This would be very remarkable had we not evidence that about the year 1651 the family removed to St. Andrew's, Holborn.

In the year 1667, four years after the sale of Horley, a Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers (widow) executed in London a nuncupative will, which still exists and is at Somerset House. We find, on reference to the Probate Act Book, that she at the time was living in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and in the church register of that parish we find record of her burial on October 11, 1667, 'from Bishop's Head Court (Gray's Inn Lane) Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers buried.'

The above will is of great importance, for by its help, taken in connection with entries in the Horley and St. Andrew's, Holborn, registers, we hold we can show that this Elizabeth Danvers was the widow of Anthony Danvers, of Horley.

In this will, made in July, 1667, Elizabeth Danvers leaves half her property to her son, John Danvers, evidently her eldest son, who she makes her executor, and charges him to take care of her grandchild, Edmund Chillenden (this he did, and in his will, made at Battersea in 1678, left Edmund Chillenden the sum of £1,000). The remainder of her property she divides between her sons, Samuel and Daniel, her daughters, Arnold, Cleaveland, and Anne Danvers, and her grandchildren, Edmund Chillenden and Elizabeth Cleaveland. Mrs. Danvers had, therefore, a daughter Chillenden the mother of an Edmund Chillenden, and we find in the St. Andrew's marriage register, on September 28, 1654, the marriage of Edmund Chillenden and Elizabeth Danvers. There can be no reasonable doubt that this Elizabeth Chillenden was the mother of Edmund Chillenden, Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers' grandchild, who is mentioned in her will.

Therefore we have in this will John, the eldest son, Daniel, a younger son, and two daughters, Elizabeth (Chillenden) and Anne Danvers, names which are all in the Horley register, and in the above order, as those of children of Anthony Danvers and his wife Elizabeth; and this alone would prove that Elizabeth Danvers of Holborn (clearly, from her having grandchildren of the same age and generation as Elizabeth, the wife of Anthony Danvers, who was alive in 1663) was Anthony's widow, Elizabeth, of Horley. Further, this will enables us to show that Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, of St. Andrew's, Holborn, had an eldest son, John—sons, Samuel and Daniel; daughters, Arnold, Elizabeth Chillenden, Susannah Cleaveland, and Anne Danvers—for we shall see presently that Daniel Danvers (of Liverpool), who it is not doubted was brother to John and Samuel (of Battersea), of the Holborn will, had a sister, Susannah Cleaveland, to whose will he was executor.

But let it be remembered that we have *no* evidence that Anthony Danvers of Horley had *not* children Samuel and Susannah. Indeed, the Horley register, and what has been advanced regarding the Daniel Danvers who finds a place there, favours the view that he, Anthony, had children of those names, named after his uncle, Samuel, and his mother, Susannah (Pope). Further, we have *no* evidence that Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, of Holborn, had *not* daughters Frances and Penelope, whom we find in the Horley register as daughters of Anthony Danvers and his wife Elizabeth—indeed, we have strong evidence that she had, and it is as follows. In the St. Andrew's register we find married, on March 31, 1651, Stoughton Arnold and Frances Burton, widow, of Horley, Oxon. We have to remember that Elizabeth Danvers, of Holborn, mentions in her will, and first of her daughters, her 'daughter Arnold.' Now, a Frances was the eldest daughter of Anthony Danvers and his wife Elizabeth. And here Frances, an uncommon Christian name, of the obscure village of Horley, is married in St. Andrew's, Holborn, to 'Arnold,' while in the same parish we have an Elizabeth Danvers of the same age and name as the mother of Frances Danvers, and having a daughter Arnold, sons John and Daniel, daughters Elizabeth and Anne, the names of brothers and sisters of Frances Danvers of Horley! Can we with any reason doubt that this Frances was Frances, the eldest daughter of Anthony Danvers? And the evidence is greatly strengthened by the fact that in the same parish we find married in 1654 Elizabeth Danvers, and in 1657 Penelope Danvers, Frances Danvers of Horley having younger sisters, Elizabeth and Penelope. Thus, therefore, we find in Holborn the wife and children of Anthony Danvers, and are able to account for the fact that after the year 1651 none of them are mentioned in the Horley register. Most probably, were not the register of marriages at Horley for the years 1643-51 wanting, we should find there, about 1649, the marriage of Frances Danvers and . . . Burton. But to return to the other marriages—September 28, 1654, Edmund Chillenden and Elizabeth Danvers were married at St. Andrew's, Holborn, and very probably both died of the plague in 1665, when one-third the population of London was carried off. They left a child, Edmund Chillenden, mentioned in Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers' will, and committed by her to the care of her son, John Danvers. The third marriage took place at the same church in August, 1657, Samuel Draper to Penelope Danvers. Penelope is not mentioned in Mrs. Elizabeth's will; very probably she, too, was dead of the plague when the will was made. The order of these marriages is that of the ages, as we find them in the Horley register, of the daughters of Anthony Danvers and his wife Elizabeth; and can we reasonably doubt that Frances, Elizabeth, Penelope, were the daughters of Anthony Danvers, and the daughters of Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, the widow of Holborn?

Now, to turn to (Susanna) Cleaveland and her daughter, Elizabeth, both mentioned in Mrs. Elizabeth's will. Nichols, in his 'History of Leicestershire' (vol. iv., part ii., p. 707), tells us that Richard Cleaveland, baptized at Hinckley in September, 1633, 'married the daughter of . . . Danvers, Esq., of Oxfordshire, near Banbury.' (Horley is two miles from Banbury, and Anthony Danvers the only man of the name who, so far as we can discover, lived at the time in the neighbourhood.) Nichols tells us that Richard Cleaveland removed to Liverpool, became a wealthy merchant there, and, having no son of his own, adopted his nephew, all of which is confirmed by the histories of Liverpool. Richard Cleaveland's death is recorded in the register of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on November 2, 1683. Two years later the register records the death of Mrs. Susanna Cleaveland, widow. The wills of Richard and Susanna are still in the probate registry at Chester. Richard's mentions his wife Susanna, and his daughter Elizabeth, married to John Perceval. Mrs. Susanna Cleaveland in her will mentions her daughter Elizabeth, widow of John Perceval. Her executor is *her brother, Daniel Danvers*. She also mentions a cousin, John Arnold—a John Arnold was one of the witnesses to her mother's will.

We have now accounted for all the children of Anthony and Elizabeth Danvers excepting the second son, Anthony, of whom, after his baptism, we find no mention in the Horley register or elsewhere; probably he died young.

We have already said that Anthony and Elizabeth may have had another son, Charles, who settled at Horley, and who was in the year 1702 a second time married.

Now, as regards Daniel Danvers of Liverpool, who was undoubtedly the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers of Holborn, we find in the names of his children strong corroborative evidence of our contention that he, son of Elizabeth Danvers of Holborn, was the son of Anthony Danvers of Horley, and evidence which strengthens, and is strengthened by, the other circumstances of his family, which we have mentioned and shall hereafter mention, for the names of the children of the Horley register were John, Frances, Elizabeth, Anthony, Penelope, Samuel, Susanna, Anne, Daniel, and probably Charles. The name of the wife of Daniel Danvers of Liverpool was Sarah; and from their wills and the wills of their children we learn the names of Daniel's children, or rather of some of them, for he may have had others of whom we have no record.* But the names of the children which we do know were Daniel, John, Anthony, Samuel, Charles, Sarah, Elizabeth, Susanna, Penelope. Compare these names with those of the Horley register, and note the very strong evidence their enumeration bears to the parentage of Daniel Danvers, and, therefore, to the view that his mother, Elizabeth Danvers of Holborn, was wife of Anthony Danvers of Horley.

The evidence derivable from the foregoing facts and circumstances may be put briefly and effectively from another point of view—namely, by showing that the Samuel Danvers and Susannah (Cleaveland), of the Holborn will, were the children of Anthony Danvers of Horley:

1. Their mother's name was Elizabeth, and that was the name of Anthony's wife, while both Elizabeths were of the same generation.

2. Their eldest brother's name was John, and that was the name of Anthony's eldest son. They had a younger brother, Daniel, and that was the name of one of Anthony's younger sons. They had sisters, Elizabeth (Chillenden) and Anne, and those were the names of two of Anthony's daughters.

3. Frances, a widow, of Horley, Oxon, was married in the

---

* We find we have omitted the mention of 'Margaret,' the daughter of Daniel Danvers by his first wife, Margaret Sorocold.

church of St. Andrew's, Holborn, the parish in which Samuel and Susanna's mother lived, to Stoughton Arnold. They (Samuel and Susanna) had a brother-in-law 'Arnold.' In the same church their sister Chillenden was married, and there also was married not long after a Penelope Danvers. Frances Arnold and Penelope Danvers are by the foregoing circumstances closely connected with Samuel and Susanna, while Anthony Danvers' eldest daughter was named Frances, and he had a daughter Penelope.

4. Frances Arnold, if the eldest daughter of Anthony Danvers, was twenty-five at the date of her second marriage in 1651. Elizabeth Chillenden, if the second daughter of Anthony, was twenty-six when she married in 1654. Penelope Danvers (Draper), if Penelope, third daughter of Anthony, was twenty-four when she married in the year 1657.

5. Strong evidence to the same effect is this, that we have not been able to find in the St. Andrew's register or elsewhere the names of any members of the Danvers family who could be taken to be brothers or sisters of Samuel and Susanna, which are not in the Horley register as names of children of Anthony Danvers.

6. Their (Samuel and Susanna's) brother, Daniel, calls all his family of whom we have record (Sarah excepted, called after his wife) after the names of the family in the Horley register.

7. If they, Samuel and Susan, were not the children of Anthony Danvers, they must be assumed to be the children of a Daniel Danvers, of whom we can discover no record, excepting in a transcript of the original Horley register, in which his children fill the gap we should have expected to find filled by the birth of two children to Anthony and his wife Elizabeth. Moreover, the name of this Daniel's wife must be the same as Anthony's, and his eldest son, John, has the same name as Anthony's eldest son; his other children also bear the same Christian names as do Anthony's, but of their baptisms, though diligently searched for, no record can be found; and, lastly, his son (if he were husband of Elizabeth, of Holborn), Daniel, calls his children by the names of Anthony's children. And a circumstance which would make our non-discovery elsewhere of this hypothetical Daniel very remarkable is that he must have been of the same generation as Anthony Danvers, and of the same—the Culworth—family, for the children are called by names characteristic of that stock, and he is found at Horley, place with which Anthony and his father alone of the Culworth family were connected.

In an early page of this chapter we stated our opinion that transcripts of the original parish registers need editing, and now, in concluding the foregoing argument, we may quote a passage from the work of an acknowledged authority on the subject of church registers, Mr. R. E. C. Waters.* That 'registers were in many parishes carelessly and negligently kept, was a scandal which engaged the Lower House of Convocation in the reign of Queen Anne,' and, after giving extracts from several registers in support of the statement, Mr. Waters (p. 84) continues: 'Some of these extracts refer to the practice of omitting to make entries at the time, and of leaving it to the clerk to keep rough notes, which were at uncertain intervals transcribed into the register-books. The clerk's notes often made sad havoc with the names.' . . . 'The notes were often lost or mislaid before they were (could be?) copied, and, when the clerk kept a day-book, it constantly happened that the parish register was not a full and accurate transcript.' . . . 'Lord Eldon, in a formal judgment, declared that not one register in a hundred had been kept according to the canon. And in the Chandos Peerage case grave doubts were suggested in the House of Lords by Lord Rosslyn whether all parish registers should not be rejected in evidence, on the ground that none of them were kept according to law.' Burns,† in his work on parish registers, remarks that 'misnomers, which for the individual may have had most serious consequences, have occurred in every page.' Our experience, by no means a small one, regarding the shortcomings and inaccuracies of parish registers, quite agrees with that of Messrs. Waters and Burns, and, as regards that of Horley, we may reiterate what we have already affirmed, that the register from the year 1598 to the end of the year 1651 is manifestly, so far as it exists, a transcript, while the entries of several years are entirely wanting. And this being the case, and looking to what has been said by others regarding parish registers, we advance very confidently the opinion that the entries made in the Horley register between the years 1624 and 1652 are to be used, not to interpret authentic documents, but rather that by those documents they, the entries, must be judged and interpreted. The documents in question are as follows: 1. The fine which sets forth the purchase by Anthony Danvers and his father, Daniel, of the manor of Horley, in the year 1617. 2. The records of Winchester College, which show that sons of Anthony Danvers, John and Daniel, were admitted as founder's kin to Winchester College. 3. The Lay Subsidy Rolls, which show the presence of

---

* 'Church Registers,' by R. E. C. Waters. London, 1883.

† 'History of Parish Registers,' by J. S. Burns. London, 1862.

Anthony Danvers in Horley in 1627 and 1641. 4. The fine setting forth the sale, in the year 1663, by Anthony Danvers, his wife, Elizabeth, and his son, John, of the manor of Horley. 5. The nuncupative will, made in the year 1667, by Elizabeth Danvers. 6. The Administration Act Book in the Probate Office, which shows that Elizabeth Danvers was of the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn. 7. The parish register of St. Andrew's, Holborn, which records the burial of Elizabeth Danvers, and the marriages of Frances Burton, Elizabeth, and Penelope Danvers at the parish church. 8. The will of John Danvers of Battersea, proved in 1678, which mentions his brother Samuel, and Edmund Chillenden. 9. The mention by Nichols of the marriage of Susan Danvers and Richard Cleaveland and their wills, in which Susan is the sister of Daniel Danvers of Liverpool. 10. The wills of Daniel Danvers of Liverpool, and of his wife, Sarah, and of their sons giving the names of the children of Daniel Danvers. 11. The will of Daniel Danvers of Bath, son of Daniel Danvers of Liverpool, made in 1746, which shows his father was brother to John and Samuel Danvers of Battersea.

These are the documents which must be used by an editor of the Horley register, and they will oblige him to conclude that Anthony Danvers of Horley, and his wife, Elizabeth, had children who were named John, Frances, Elizabeth, Anthony, Penelope, Samuel, Susanna, Anne, Daniel.

CHAPTER XIV.

A.D. 1680—1803.

In his will, made in 1677, Mr. John Danvers, of Battersea, states that his wife, Susan, was daughter of Mr. Allyn Smith, of Nether Pillerton, Warwick. This Mr. Allyn Smith was no doubt related to the Mr. Alexander Smith who heads the Lay Subsidy Roll of Pillerton, made in the early part of the reign of Charles I. (Warwick L. S. R. $\frac{194}{310}$), and to Mr. Smith, the sugar-refiner of Battersea, with whom John Danvers was in partnership. A Mr. Allyn Smith was living at Battersea when John Danvers made his will; he calls him 'his loving brother,' and nominates him one of his executors—doubtless, therefore, this Mr. Allyn Smith was the brother-in-law of John Danvers.

In the Hearth Tax Roll (Surrey L. S. R. $\frac{188}{481}$ and $\frac{188}{504}$) of Battersea, we find Sir Walter St. John and Mr. John Smith heading the list, while in February, 1701-2, we have in the church register the baptism of Allyn, son of Mr. John Smith; in the following year Samuel, son of Mr. John Smith, and in 1702-3 the baptism of his daughter Anne.

The relationship of the Smiths and Danvers of Battersea is also shown by the marriage license of Elizabeth Danvers (Faculty Office of Archbishop of Canterbury), dated October 3, 1686: Samuel Foot, bachelor, twenty-six, and Elizabeth Danvers, spinster, eighteen. Her father (John) dead, and she at the disposal of her uncles, Mr. Smith and Mr. Danvers, of Battersea, her guardians, who consent.

In the Battersea church registers are some Danvers entries: March, 1667, John, son of Mr. John Danvers, baptized;

January, 1677, Mary, daughter of Mr. John Danvers, buried; 1683, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Samuel Danvers, buried; June, 1709, Mr. Samuel Danvers buried.

The connection of the families of Danvers and Smith at Battersea, both in business and by marriage, may partly account for the presence of Mr. Daniel Danvers as a sugar-refiner in Liverpool, where Mr. Smith, in the year 1667, introduced that industry. Yet another inducement for Mr. Danvers to establish himself at Liverpool may be found in the circumstance that his brother-in-law, Mr. Richard Cleaveland, was in business as a merchant in that town.

Mr. Moore in his 'Rental,'* compiled in the year 1667, relates the sale of a piece of land north of Dale Street, Liverpool, to Mr. Smith, 'the great sugar baker of London, worth £40,000,' on which Mr. Smith was to erect a stately house of hewn stone, and at the back of it to erect a house for boiling and drying sugar; and Moore predicts, and rightly, that this will bring a great trade from the West Indies to Liverpool. When Mr. Smith, of London, began business at Liverpool, the town was a small place of some four or five thousand inhabitants, with a few ships lying in the stream and communicating by means of boats with the open strand which intervened between the houses of the town and the river. At the north end of the town was the ancient church, or rather chapel, of St. Nicholas, for Liverpool was then only a hamlet of the parish of Walton. A little to the south of the church Water Street continued Dale Street to the Strand Road, and at either corner of the street were, on the north the tower, and on the south the old custom-house.

To the south of Dale Street and Water Street were scattered houses, irregularly grouped, divided by streets or lanes running down to the Strand. On the southern outskirts of the town, a little back from the river, stood the ancient castle, with gardens and a few houses between it and the river and 'the pool.' The pool bounded the town on the south, and beyond it was a far-stretching, open common, traversed by the road, or rather track, which led to London and Manchester. Wheeled carriages at the time, and even to a much later date

---

* Moore's 'Rental,' p. 76; Chetham Society's edition.

(1760), were an unknown method of conveyance from Liverpool to London. Goods came from London by pack-horses, and, so late as 1753, every Friday morning a gang of horses, for conveyance of passengers and light goods, left the Swan with Two Necks, London, and reached Liverpool on the Monday evening following.

It was not till the year 1669 that the people of Liverpool determined to get their town made a distinct parish,* and the case of the Corporation which they presented to Parliament in support of their claims gives an interesting account of the condition of the town. Very curious to us in the present day seems the line of argument which the worthy Corporation adopt in furtherance of the Bill. They say that Liverpool 'was formerly a small fishing town, but many people coming from London in the time of the sickness and after the fire, several ingenious men settled in Leverpool, which encouraged them to trade to the Plantations and other places, which occasioned sundry other Tradesmen to come and settle there, which hath so enlarged their trade that from scarce paying the salary of the officers of the customs, it is now the third part of the trade of England, and pays upwards of £50,000 per annum to the King. And by reason of such encrease of inhabitants many new streets are built, and are still in building, and many gentlemans' sons of the counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Chester, and North-Wales, are put apprentices in the town. And there being but one chapel which doth not contain one half of our inhabitants, in the summer, upon pretence of going to the Parish Church, which is two long miles, and there being a village in the way, they drink in the said village, by which and otherwise many youth and sundry families are ruined. Therefore it is hoped the Bill may pass, being to promote the service of God.'†

As we learn from Moore's 'Rental,' the sugar-refining manufacture was commenced by Mr. Smith in Dale Street,‡ and it has continued in the same locality till the present time, the streets leading from Dale Street having always been the principal seat of this industry.

---

* Earwaker's 'Local Gleanings,' vol. i., p. 40.

† *Ibid.*, vol. i., p. 50.

‡ Picton's 'Memorials of Liverpool,' vol. i., p. 111.

When Daniel Danvers arrived there, about the year 1670, Liverpool was rapidly becoming a thriving, prosperous town; new streets were building, and one of them, Red Cross Street, built in Tarleton's Field about the end of the seventeenth century, contained some large, commodious mansions, the residences of the leading merchants, and here it was that the Danvers family eventually established themselves. But it is probable that Mr. Danvers began life in Liverpool in connection with the business of Mr. Smith, and not till the year 1701 do we discover a record of his establishing himself in business on his own account.

On February 5, 1675, Daniel Danvers was married in St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool, to his first wife, Margaret, who was a daughter of Mr. Sorocold,* of Barton, which is all that we know regarding her. On October 20, 1701, at St. Nicholas Church, Joseph Shaw married Margaret Danvers, who was daughter of Daniel Danvers by his first wife.†

From the town records‡ we learn that in the year 1683 Mr. Daniel Danvers was presented for absenting himself from divine service 'in the chappelle of Leverpoole,' and for the same reason he is again presented in October, 1684, and a third time, with thirteen other residents, in April, 1685.

We do not know the date of the death of Margaret, the first wife, nor have we been able to discover the date of Daniel's second marriage or the surname of his second wife. Her Christian name was Sarah, and when Mr. Danvers died in the year 1710, all their many children were still under age.

In the year 1701, when Daniel Danvers appears to have begun business on his own account, the town had made great progress, yet it was still but a small place, with a population not over 6,000, and with a trade which was carried by some hundred vessels with a total tonnage of only a little over 8,000.

---

* 'Sorocold Family,' Chetham Society's vol. lxxxviii., p. 276; also Harleian Society's vol. xvii., p. 253.

† See Joseph Shaw, p. 454.

‡ For this, and for many other notices of members of the Danvers family, existing in the Liverpool records, we are greatly indebted to the courtesy of George James Atkinson, Esq., Town Clerk of Liverpool.

The castle, though it still stood, was no longer on the outskirts of the town. Red Cross Street extended from it eastwards to the river, and the fields and gardens in the angle between Red Cross Street and South Castle Street were becoming covered with houses. However, when Mr. Daniel Danvers applied to the Corporation for a lease of a portion of this ground, a ship is found building upon it, and orders have to be passed for its removal within one month's time. Mr. Danvers was to pay a fine of £80, and to build a sugar-house on the land with conveniences good and firm, and to pay such rent and to make such improvements as were demanded of the late occupier, Alderman Sharples. In the August of 1702 the sugar-house in Red Cross Street was finished, the lease is granted, and the three lives put in it are those of the lessee's wife, Sarah, and of their two sons, Daniel and John. Before his death, in the year 1709, Daniel Danvers had acquired property across the pool on the common, and probably had commenced building there, for we find, in the year 1707, an order from the Corporation that he and others should fill up the holes which they had made in digging on the common for clay, and another reminiscence we have of the open common in the presentment of Daniel's son, Mr. Samuel Danvers, for keeping greyhounds and killing hares, not being qualified by law.

In April of the year 1710 Daniel Danvers* died, and his burial is recorded, on the 10th of that month, in the register of the parish church of St. Nicholas. His will was made in September, 1709, and proved at Chester in the following May by his executors, John Pemberton and William Basnett. He mentions therein his property in Tythe Barn Street, Red Cross Street, and Toxteth Park, in Liverpool, and in Church Gate, in Bolton-in-the-Moors. He appoints his wife, Sarah, guardian of his children, and mentions his children, Daniel, John, Anthony, Charles, Sarah, Penelope, and Elizabeth. Two of his children, Samuel and Susan,* are not mentioned in the will. It is notable that when giving names to his own children, Daniel repeated those of Anthony Danvers of Horley—evidence in itself almost sufficient to prove the nature of his relationship to the Horley family. It is, too, a curious coincidence that the names of the two children which are omitted in Daniel's will, Samuel and Susan, are those of the children regarding whom explanation was needed in the case of the Horley entries.

---

* John Danvers of Battersea, born at Horley in the year 1624, died at Battersea, in 1678, aged fifty-four. Samuel Danvers of Battersea, born at Horley in the year 1636, died at Battersea, in 1709, aged seventy-three. Daniel Danvers, born at Horley in the year 1644, died at Liverpool, in 1710, aged sixty-six. We find the brothers mentioned together in the Horley register, and in their mother's will; all three followed the same business. That Daniel of Liverpool was the Daniel of the register and will, is made clear by various considerations. His sister, whose executor he became, Susanna Cleaveland of Liverpool, was the daughter of Elizabeth Danvers, who made her will at St. Andrew's, Holborn, in the year 1663; sister therefore to John and Samuel. Then Daniel's son, Daniel, who made his will in the year 1744, mentions therein the children of his cousin Daniel Danvers of Battersea (Daniel was the only surviving son of John Danvers of Battersea), and makes provision for their maintenance and education. And it must be remembered that the younger Daniel, in his will, clearly uses the term cousin in the special sense in which it is used nowadays. Again, the elder Daniel Danvers of Liverpool, as we have already had occasion to insist, calls his children after the names of those of the Horley Register.

The impress of the seal attached to the will is that of the old arms of the family, the chevron and mullets, and the signature to the will is as bold and firm as are the initials cut long since in the cloisters at Winchester.

Daniel Danvers was followed in business by his sons Daniel, Samuel, and Anthony, who seem to have enlarged it considerably, for in the year 1726 we find Daniel Danvers adding a piece of ground at the back of Red Cross Street, between it and Harrington Street and Strand Street, and in the year 1737 another piece of ground is added apparently to the business premises behind his dwelling-house. The lives put in the leases are Daniel Danvers, his brothers, John and Anthony, his wife, Elizabeth, and his son, Daniel.

In the year 1720 Mr. Samuel Danvers died. His will, dated February 24, 1719, was proved at Chester, May 19, 1720. In it he mentions his wife, Isabel, but not her maiden name; from other sources we know that it was Isabel Crooke.† Samuel mentions his mother, Sarah Danvers, his brothers,

---

* Probably by the first wife.

† See Earwaker's 'Gleanings,' vol. ii., pp. 237 and 240. Isabel, in 1729, married the Rev. Thomas Hayes of Rainhill.

Daniel, John, Anthony, and Charles, his sisters, Sarah, Penelope, and Elizabeth Danvers, and his sister Susanna Cunningham, and her husband John Cunningham, his brothers-in-law, John Perceval and Joseph Shaw. Testator also mentions many friends and his property in Tithebarn Street, Liverpool, and in Bolton Close or Meadow, near Bolton. Seal bears the chevron and mullets.

In the year 1729 we find an order of the Corporation that Charles Danvers (October 28) and John Danvers, merchant (October 10), sons of Daniel Danvers, sugar-baker, both free-born, having proved their rights, be admitted on payment of 3s. 4d. each. The brothers John and Charles are never mentioned in connection with the sugar-refining business, and are merely called 'merchants.' Mr. John Danvers has in the year 1732 a lease of a garden house in Shoreditch (Liverpool) for twenty-one years, and very probably the lives put in it are those of connections by marriage. They are Robert, son of Richard and Bridget Muller, and Katherine,* daughter of George and Catherine Leigh.

In the year 1733 Mrs. Sarah Danvers, wife of the elder Daniel, died, and her will was proved at Chester on January 7, 1733, by her sons, Daniel and John Danvers. She mentions her children, Daniel, John, Anthony, Charles, Sarah Danvers, Penelope Green, and Elizabeth Danvers. The impress of the seal is a horse's head, bitted and reined, on a wreath. Her burial—'Mrs. Sarah Danvers, Red Cross Street, widow'—is registered on November 8, 1733, at St. Nicholas Church.

The next year, 1734, Charles Danvers, son of Daniel and Sarah, died, and the following is a copy of an entry in the Probate Registry Office at Chester, October 14, 1734: 'Letters of administration of the estate of Charles Danvers, late of Liverpool, merchant, were granted to his (intestate's) brother, John Danvers, Eunice, intestate's widow, having previously renounced.'

Charles and Eunice were, as we shall show, the parents of John Danvers of Hornsey, and therefore the ancestors of the present Danvers family. John Danvers, their son, was, as we learn from his tombstone at Hornsey, seventy-two years of age when he died, in February, 1803, and was therefore born in the year 1730.

---

* See Additional MSS., B.M., 24458, pedigree of Leigh of Oughterington.

In the year 1737 we find amongst the records of Liverpool a new adventure on the part of Mr. Daniel Danvers. The town had vastly extended since his father's time, and the docks commenced in the year 1709 had greatly increased in area in order to make provision for the extensive trade that had sprung up with Africa, the West Indies, and with America. Ships sailed from Liverpool, laden with cottons and hardware, for the West Coast of Africa, where the cargoes were bartered for slaves, which in turn were carried to the West Indies to be exchanged for sugar and rum, which were brought across to Liverpool. We may judge of the extent of the traffic from the fact that in one year Liverpool ships carried no less than 30,000 slaves to the West Indies and America. To meet the increasing business due to the increased supply of raw material from abroad, Daniel Danvers had to provide additional factories, and he therefore, in 1737, obtained a lease of a sugar-house, cooperage, warehouse, and yard, lately erected on the east side of Hanover Street. This street was then a new one, which had been built on the site of a rural lane which led from the pool's mouth across the heath to the open country, and was a street which became, somewhat before the middle of the century, the residence of the mercantile aristocracy of the day, who erected noble mansions, and laid out gardens and orchards along its course.* On the east side was a notable mansion, that of the family of Steer, built in 1730-40, the first architectural stone-fronted dwelling-house built in Liverpool. Nor was the activity of the Danvers firm confined to Hanover Street, for near the old premises on the north side of Crooked Lane, a sugar-house, warehouse, still-house, cooperage and counting-house, are in the year 1742 begun, and are to be finished within seven years, on land leased from the Corporation.

But, while all this building and extension was going on, Daniel Danvers died, leaving a wife, Elizabeth, and an only son, Daniel. His wife was the daughter of John Hood, Esq., of Bardon Park, Leicestershire. The will mentions the testator's brother-in-law, John Hood,* of London, and his wife's mother, Mary Hood. Daniel's will was made in August, 1739, five years after the death of his brother Charles, and he leaves all his houses and business to his nephew, John, the son of his late brother Charles, if no children of his own (the testator's) should attain to the age of twenty-one. He also leaves a legacy to his cousin, Daniel Danvers of Battersea, and makes provision for the maintenance and education of his cousin's children.

---

* Cf. Picton's 'History of Liverpool.'

This will is of so great importance in proving the identity and parentage of John Danvers of Hornsey, that we shall, before noticing its other provisions, draw attention to the use of the terms which Daniel Danvers applies to his relatives. He speaks of his 'brother-in-law,' of his 'nephew,' of his 'kinsman' Daniel Cunningham, and of his 'cousin' Daniel Danvers. Now, we must remember that not many years previously all these relations would have been mentioned in a will as 'cousins;' thus William Danvers of London, in his will made in the year 1660, calls his niece's husband, John Pollard, his 'cousin.' John Danvers of Battersea, in his will dated 1677, calls his nephew, Edmund Chillenden, his cousin, and from the Danvers wills alone numberless illustrations might be given of the fact that up to the end of the seventeenth century the term cousin was usually applied to any and every relative more remotely connected than a brother or sister. But, as we have seen, Daniel Danvers of Liverpool, clearly distinguishes the degrees of relationship of his legatees—the boy John Danvers is 'his nephew,' and Daniel Danvers, of Battersea, is 'his cousin,' because he was the son of the testator's uncle, John Danvers, while Daniel Cunningham is 'his kinsman.'

At the time of his death Daniel Danvers was living in his house in Red Cross Street. He mentions his brother Anthony, his sisters Elizabeth Danvers and Sarah Cockshutt, his niece Sarah Green, and his friends Sam Ogden and John Bostock. The latter, with the testator's wife, and her brother, John Hood, are his executors. The will (Edmunds, 43) was proved in London on February 15, 1745-46.

---

* For pedigree of Hood of Bardon Park, *vide* Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 280.

Amongst the bequests are 'his seats in Benn's Gardens Chapel' to his wife Elizabeth. As regards this chapel* we learn that the first congregation of Dissenters in Liverpool was a branch from the ancient chapel at the Dingle, in Toxteth Park. They were 'English Presbyterians,' and their chapel, built about the year 1688, in Castle Hey Street, now Harington Street, was served by the Rev. Christopher Richardson, the ejected minister of Kirkhalton, Yorkshire. In the year 1727 the congregation removed to the chapel in Benn's Gardens, a street which led out of Red Cross Street, and adjoined the house and refinery of Daniel Danvers.

Daniel Danvers was succeeded by his son, a third Daniel Danvers of Liverpool. Probably the young Daniel came of age in or about the year 1752, when we find him getting a lease from the Corporation of the premises, sugar-house, etc., on the north side of Crooked Lane—the premises, in fact, at the back of his father's house in Red Cross Street. The lease is for twenty-one years, and the three lives put in it are, the lessee's, Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, and John Danvers, merchant, of London. On the same date Daniel Danvers gets a lease of a house and grounds in Park Lane, bounded by Mr. Heywood's, Mr. Ogden's, and Alderman Rainsford's grounds—these were all well-known names at the time in Liverpool, and Park Lane was the old road which led from near the lower end of Hanover Street to Toxteth Park.

The lives put in this lease were those of the lessee, of his wife Mary, and of Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, of Bath, widow. Daniel, therefore, is married, and his mother has left Liverpool for Bath, to which place not long after her son and his wife followed her.

In the year 1762 the sugar-house, counting-house, etc., in Red Cross Street were leased to Isaac Oldham. The lives in the lease are Daniel Danvers, of Bath, Esq., John Danvers, of London, merchant, and Isaac Fairbrother. The whole of the male descendants of the first Daniel appear to have been at this time dead, or to have left Liverpool. There is but one more notice of them in records of the town, and that occurs in the lease of Thompson's Croft, in the year 1771, in which one of the lives is that of Anthony Danvers of Kingston, Jamaica, merchant, who was probably the son or grandson of the first Daniel Danvers of Liverpool.

---

* Cf. Picton's 'History of Liverpool'; and Halley's 'Lancashire Puritanism.' London, 1869.

Let us briefly follow the fortunes of the family in Bath. Elizabeth Danvers, wife of the second Daniel, of Liverpool, died in the year 1757, and her will (Herring, 118), is registered at Somerset House. She leaves legacies to her sister Elizabeth Danvers, to her grand-daughter Mary Danvers, and to her son Daniel Danvers. The will was made in the testator's handwriting, but was not signed. John Danvers, of St. Benet Fink's, London, and a certain Francis Gregg, were called in, and swear that they well knew the testatrix and her handwriting, and that the will was written by her, whereupon probate was granted.

Daniel Danvers became a banker in Bath, and seems to have been an active man in that city; his portrait is upon the walls of the Bath hospital, of which institution he was for some time treasurer.

At Bath, Daniel Danvers became intimately acquainted with Sir John Danvers, Bart., of Swithlands, an intimacy which no doubt began in the relationship of their wives, who were first cousins, and in this way. Sir Edmund Harrison, of Ickford, Bucks, married Mary, daughter of the Nathaniel Fiennes who has been so often mentioned in previous pages. Sir Edmund and his wife had two daughters, Jane and Sarah, who married respectively Mathias King and Joel Watson. Mary King, daughter of Mathias, married Daniel Danvers, and Mary Watson, daughter of Joel, married* Sir John Danvers of Swithlands. The intimacy extended to Daniel's cousin, John Danvers, of New Court, with whom we find Sir John Danvers corresponding in a way which evidenced confidential and friendly relations between them.†

---

* Cf. Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 280.

† The following is one of the letters addressed by Sir John Danvers to Mr. John Danvers:

Extract from letter of Sir John Danvers, Bart., of Swithlands, to John Danvers, of New Court, December 25, 1782.

'I do, after very mature deliberation, think it proper to acquaint you, that before our friend Mr. Danvers, of Bath, dyed, I had, in case my

In the year 1779 Daniel Danvers died, leaving his wife, Mary, and six children. He is called of the city of Bath, banker, and leaves all his goods and estates to his wife. To his cousin, John Danvers, of New Court, Broad Street, London, he leaves ten guineas for a ring, and constitutes him co-executor with his (the testator's) wife, Mary. He speaks of his son Daniel. In a codicil to his will he leaves a shilling to his eldest son, Daniel, and ten guineas for a ring to Sir John Danvers, Bart., whom he constitutes an executor. The will (Warburton, 492) was proved in December, 1779, in London by Mary Danvers, John Danvers, Esq., and Sir John Danvers, Bart., the executors.

He left three sons and three daughters. The eldest son Daniel died in 1807 leaving no issue; Charles also died without issue; John married and had issue. Mary, the eldest daughter, died unmarried; Elizabeth married Samuel Howse of Bath, and left no issue; Sarah married the Rev. Robert Jacombe, of St. Laurence Pountney Hill, London, and had children, of whom the eldest son took the name of Jacombe-Hood.*

And now we turn to John Danvers, the only link in the long chain of the Danvers pedigree which remains for our consideration.

John Danvers was born at Liverpool in the year 1730. Probably he was baptized in Benn's Garden Chapel, the existing registers of which do not reach back to that period. His father, Charles, died when he was a child, and after the administration to her husband's effects we hear nothing

---

daughter dyed without issue male, given him and the heirs male of his body, my whole fortune, both real and personal; and in case they dyed without issue male, then to you, and your heirs for ever. Soon after I left Bath, the last time I was there, which was a few months after Mr. Danvers dyed, finding how imprudent his widow was, Dan ruined, and the other children very likely to be so by their weak and positive mother, I made a new Will . . . leaving my whole fortune, both real and personal, a few legacies excepted, not amounting to two thousand pounds, to you and your heirs for ever. . . .

'Your faithful and affectionate relation and friend,

'(Signed), John Danvers.'

* See Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. i., p. 280; and Additional MS., B.M., No. 24458, p. 511.

further of his mother, Eunice. Probably John was brought up in the house of his uncle, Daniel, in Red Cross Street, together with his cousin Daniel, who was of about the same age. In the year 1639, when John was eight years of age, we find him treated as a younger son in his uncle Daniel's will. Failing his own issue, his nephew John, 'son of his late brother Charles,' was to inherit his property. In the year 1746, when his uncle Daniel died, his cousin Daniel was still under age, and John, whose name remained in his uncle's will, might yet have become his heir. However, Daniel the younger came of age, and speedily married, and John, coming of age, received the legacy provided by his uncle, and left Liverpool for London, where he set up in business, with William Cope, in New Court, Broad Street. Still, we have some further reminiscences of him in Liverpool, for in the years 1752 and 1762 his life is put in the leases of his cousin's property in that city.

The first entry that we have in London of John Danvers' name is in the parish records of St. Benet Fink's, where, in March, 1753, appears the name of John Danvers having a house of business in New Court, with William Cope as his partner, and from that time onwards till near the end of the century his name appears regularly in the parish books. And it may be remarked that John Danvers was the first of the name who, after the lapse of very many years, can be discovered in the City or other records as a resident in the City. The name of Danvers is absent in all the early directories and poll-books till the year 1759, when John Danvers appears in the directory as of 1, New Court, Broad Street, and as of New Court he appears in witnessing to his aunt Elizabeth's handwriting in the year 1757, and he is of the same place when we find him acting as executor to his cousin Daniel's will in the year 1777. Of New Court, too, he is in the letters of Sir John Danvers, which are in the possession of his descendants. The marriages of two of his children in the years 1787 and 1789 are registered in the books of the parish church, that of St. Benet Fink's.

On August 28, 1756, John Danvers married, at the Church of All Hallows, Barking, Elizabeth Hardy. He is described in the register as bachelor, of the parish of St. Benet Fink, and she as 'spinster of this parish.' They were married by licence, the record of which is at Lambeth Palace, and is dated August 18, 1756. John Danvers is aged twenty-five and upwards, and Elizabeth Hardy is twenty-one and upwards,* and as she was of age no mention is made of her parents. They had three sons, John, Charles and William (the latter died young), and two daughters, Elizabeth and Frances. In their later years Mr. John Danvers and his wife had a country house at Hornsey. The house has been pulled down and its site built over, for the country village of A.D. 1800 is now a London suburb, but the house was well known to the grandchildren, two of whom are still (1893) living.

John Danvers died in the year 1803, and was buried in a raised tomb in Hornsey Churchyard on the south side of the old church. His wife survived him many years, and, dying in the year 1815, was buried in her husband's grave. The following is the inscription upon their tomb:

'To the Memory of
John Danvers,
Who died February 18th, 1803,
Aged 72 years.
Also of Elizabeth Danvers,
Wife of the above,
Who died January 11th, 1815,
Aged 82 years.
Also of John Danvers,
Son of the above,
Who died August 8th, 1835,
Aged 74 years.
Also of Henrietta, his wife,
Who died May 31, 1836,
Aged 71 years.
Also of Charles Danvers,
Who died June 10th, 1844.
Aged 77 years.'

---

* The family tradition is that Elizabeth Hardy belonged to the Jersey family of that name, and the late Mr. Frederick Dawes Danvers always spoke of the late Sir William Hardy as a relative. A descendant of the Hardy family, Miss Sophia Neave, who died in the year 1843, bequeathed a considerable legacy to 'her cousin, Mr. Frederick Danvers,' and his sisters. We have not, however, been able to place, with certainty, Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers in the Hardy pedigree.

The will of John Danvers was proved by his sons, John and Charles, in May, 1803. His wife, Elizabeth, and his four children, John, Charles, Elizabeth, Frances, are mentioned in the will.

John, the eldest son, married, on November 19, 1787, at St. Nicholas Church, Rochester, Henrietta, daughter of John Fennell* and his wife Frances Brady. They had a large family of sons and daughters. Charles, the second son of John and Elizabeth, married, at St. Benet Fink's, City of London, on January 11, 1789, Mary Teush, and had by her a large family. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married on February 4, 1787, at St. Benet Fink's, William Hamilton, M.D., and had sons and daughters. Frances, the youngest daughter, married on October 23, 1790, Thomas Flower Ellis, by whom she had a large family.

We follow no further the history of the members of this, the only surviving branch in the male line of the Danvers family. We have traced their ancestors from Auvers to Northampton, Dorney and Marlow, thence to Bourton, Tetsworth, Ipswell and Banbury, from Banbury to Prestcote and Dauntsey, thence to Culworth and Horley, and finally to Liverpool and Hornsey.

* See Appendix II. to this chapter.

APPENDIX TO CHAPTER XIV.

I.

DESCENDANTS* OF JOHN DANVERS AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH.

[The figures indicate the generation of the individuals.]

1 John, eldest son of John Danvers of Hornsey, born 1761; died August 8, 1835, buried at Hornsey; married, November 19, 1787, at St. Nicholas, Rochester, Henrietta Fennell, daughter of John Fennell and his wife, Frances Brady. John and Henrietta had issue: six sons, John, Charles, William, Frederick Dawes, Edward Fuller, George Augustus (married, and had children, who died young), and five daughters, Emma, Maria, Marianne, Elizabeth Henrietta, Caroline Coningham. Of these, John, William, Emma, Maria, Marianne, died young or unmarried.

2 Charles, born May 5, 1790; died June 2, 1865; married, November 28, 1813, Eliza Nockells. Issue: 3 William Charles, 3 John Frederick Gardner, 3 Elizabeth Evelyn, 3 Augusta. 3 John Frederick married Eliza Patterson, and had issue: sons, 4 Charles and 4 Frederick, daughters, 4 Augusta and 4 Constance. 3 Elizabeth Evelyn married, April 15, 1841, William Thornton, and had issue, 4 Ellen Aird, 4 Edward Zohrab, 4 Stanhope, 4 Evelyn Danvers. 4 Edward Zohrab married Georgina, daughter of Frederick Dawes Danvers, and has issue. 4 Evelyn married William Carmalt Jones, and had issue. 3 Augusta died unmarried, 3 William Charles died unmarried.

2 Frederick Dawes, born December 17, 1795; died October 21, 1867; married, at St. Pancras Church, London, June 14, 1825, Charlotte Maria Rawlinson. Issue: 3 Juland, 3 Arthur died unmarried, 3 Emily, 3 Mary, 3 Amy, 3 Robert William died unmarried, 3 Rebecca, 3 Georgina, 3 James Farish, 3 Charlotte, 3 Lydia. 3 Sir Juland Danvers, K.C.S.I., married, at Reigate Church, August 21, 1851, Sarah Frances Rochfort, and had issue: 4 Henry Rochfort died July 2, 1856, 4 Alice Stewart died July 4,

died Oct
[illegible]

---

* Not indexed.

1865, [4] Frances Kathleen, [4] Dorothea Hilda, [4] Marion Audrey, [4] Frederick Juland Rochfort died May 18, 1864, [4] Mary Gertrude, [4] John Thornton Mervyn died December 25, 1880, [4] Madeleine Bloomfield. [4] Frances Kathleen married, November 12, 1879, Charles Dingwall, and has issue. [4] Dorothea Hilda married, August 5, 1885, Edmund Henry Ellis, and has issue. [4] Marion Audrey married Rev. Francis Bell, M.A., and has issue. [4] Mary Gertrude, and [4] Madeleine, unmarried (1894).

[3] Emily Danvers* married, (1) at the Savoy Chapel, July 22, 1854, Benjamin Auber Leech, died January 20, 1855, had issue: [4] Mary Auber, married January 2, 1879, Admiral William Codrington, and has issue.

(2) At St. James's, Paddington, April 13, 1858, William Henry Smith,† and has issue: [4] Emily Anna, [4] Helen, [4] Beatrice Danvers, [4] Henry Walton died February, 1866, [4] Mabel Danvers, [4] William Frederick Danvers. [4] Emily Anna married Captain William Alison Dyke Acland, R.N., and has issue. [4] Beatrice Danvers married Alfred Dyke Acland, and has issue. [4] Mabel Danvers married John Herbert Dudley Ryder, and has issue. [4] William Frederick Danvers Smith married, July 26, 1894, Lady Esther Gore.

[3] Mary Danvers married, at the Savoy Chapel, July 22, 1854, William Brinton, M.D. Issue: [4] Wilfred, [4] Maud, [4] Roland Danvers, [4] Marion Danvers, [4] Edith, [4] Hubert. [4] Roland Danvers married, October 8, 1890, Helen Constance Rendel, and has issue. The others unmarried (1894).

[3] Amy Danvers married, at the Savoy Chapel, May 3, 1853, Francis Nottidge Macnamara, M.D. Issue: [4] The Rev. Henry Danvers Macnamara, M.A., married Alice Glanville, and has issue. [4] Eric Danvers Macnamara unmarried (1894).

[3] Rebecca Danvers married, at the Savoy Chapel, February 5, 1857, Samuel Browning Power. Issue: [4] John Danvers Power, Florence Danvers, Frederick Danvers, Arthur Danvers, died 1872, Lilian Danvers, Philip Danvers, died 1877, Norman Danvers, Arnold Danvers. [4] John Danvers married, at Great Marlow, April, 1891, Ethel Wethered, and has issue. [4] Florence, Lilian, Frederick, Norman, Arnold, unmarried (1894).

[3] Georgina Danvers married, at Abbot's Langley, August 29, 1866, Edward Zohrab Thornton.‡ Issue: [4] Edward Evelyn Danvers and [4] Stanhope Evelyn, both unmarried (1894).

[3] James Farish Danvers married, at the Savoy Chapel, May 1,

---

* Created Viscountess Hambleden in 1891.

† The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., died October 6, 1891.

‡ Lieutenant-Colonel E. Z. Thornton.

1866, Edith Mary Gibbes. Issue: [4] Frederick Juland and [4] Harold, both unmarried (1894).

[3] Charlotte Danvers unmarried (1894).

[3] Lydia Danvers married, at Great Stanmore Church, August 17, 1865, Henry Mainwaring Sladen. Issue: [4] Henry Danvers, died April 27, 1888, [4] Francis Danvers, [4] Walter Mainwaring, died February 14, 1889, [4] Charles St. Barbe, [4] Eleanor Mary. Francis, Charles, Eleanor, unmarried (1894).

[2] Edward Fuller Danvers married, April 19, 1831, Mary Fennell. Issue: [3] Augustus Fennell, [3] Agnes Ellis, [3] Arthur Henry, [3] Marion Susannah, [3] Edward Thornton, died unmarried, [3] Caroline, unmarried, [3] George, [3] Danby Horton, [3] Cecil Eugene married, [3] William Beauclerc died unmarried. [3] Augustus Fennell died January 24, 1869; married at Trinity Church, Paddington, August 3, 1864, Margaret Elyetson Burra. Issue: [4] Robert Augustus, born September 26, 1865; married, S^t Augustines S. Kensington July 12, 1893, Sylvia Bertha Peplow Ford, and has issue. Robert William Ford Danvers. Sept [illegible] 18[illegible] [illegible] Dan[illegible] Nov [illegible] [illegible] [3] Agnes Ellis married, 1866, Albert Waghorn, and has issue. [3] Arthur unmarried. [3] Marion Susan married, October 8, 1859, Rev. Frederick Meyrick, M.A., and has issue. [3] George, the reverend, married (1), 1866, Agatha M. Harward, and has issue: [4] Mary Harward, [4] Edward Augustine, [4] John Harward; married (2), 1878, Martha C. Eaton. Issue: [4] William, [4] Kathleen, [4] George Cecil, [4] Gertrude. [3] Danby Horton married, 1873, Mary Revell. Issue: [4] Evelyn Mary, [4] Cecil Revell, [4] Gertrude.

[2] Elizabeth Henrietta Danvers married, March 28, 1829, Sidney John Smith, and had issue: [3] Danvers James, [3] Sidney Charles Thornton, [3] Henrietta Charlotte, [3] Ellen, [3] Jessie, [3] Lyndon. Henrietta Charlotte married, January 12, 1856, J. W. Soady, and has issue.

[2] Caroline Coningham Danvers, born February 19, 1808; married, February 19, 1829, Edward Thornton. No issue.

1 Charles Danvers, second son of John Danvers of Hornsey, born October, 1766; died June 10, 1844; married, January 11, 1789, Mary Teush. Had issue five sons: [2] Charles Lang, [2] Henry Teush, [2] Frederick Samuel, [2] George, [2] John Harris; and six daughters: [2] Mary, [2] Elizabeth, [2] Louisa, [2] Frances Herbert, [2] Julia, [2] Elizabeth.* Of these, Elizabeth, Louisa, George, Frances Herbert, Julia, died young or unmarried. [2] Mary, married, March 25, 1819, Captain David Duval, and had issue. [2] Charles Lang, born June 1, 1794; died January 30, 1880; married Mary Ann Barton, and had issue: [3] Eliza, who married

---

* Married, January 25, 1853, Augustus de Holtorp.

(1) John Giberne, and had issue; (2) Stephen Godden. ^{2}Henry Teush Danvers, born November 2, 1796; married, November 25, 1827, Eliza Isabel Gilly, and had issue: ^{3}Henry W., married Emily Knowles, and had issue, ^{3}Rosalie Isabel, ^{3}Julia Eliza, married George Heatley. ^{2}Frederick Samuel Danvers married, August 25, 1827, Mary Matilda Middleton. Issue five sons: ^{3}Boswell Danby, ^{3}Frederick Charles, ^{3}Herbert Ellis, ^{3}Alfred Thornton, ^{3}Roland; and two daughters: ^{3}Ellen, ^{3}Mary Musgrave. ^{3}Frederick Charles Danvers married, October 17, 1860, Louisa Mocatta, and has issue: ^{4}Alan, ^{4}Ernest, ^{4}Charles, ^{4}Florence, ^{4}Oona, ^{4}Isabel, ^{4}Evelyn, ^{4}Lilian. ^{3}Herbert Ellis married Augusta Horton, and had issue: ^{4}Augusta, ^{4}Katherine, ^{4}Margaret, ^{4}Annie, ^{4}Mary. ^{3}Alfred Thornton married Lauretta Sarah Reynolds, and had issue: ^{4}Frederick Thomas, ^{4}Leslie Danby, ^{4}Alfred Edgar, ^{4}Alfred Allen, ^{4}Alfred Vivian, ^{4}Eric Roland, ^{4}Laura Mary, ^{4}Olive May, ^{4}Rena Elsie, ^{4}Dulcie Evelyn. ^{3}Ellen married (1) Philip H. N. Hornby, (2) William Hazlitt.

^{2}John Harris Danvers married (1) Antonia Caroline Coles, widow of Samuel Bristowe, and had issue: ^{3}John Henry and ^{3}Agnes Susan Kate; married (2), Eleonora Sophia Love.

1 Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John and Elizabeth Danvers, born October 23, 1768; died December 6, 1844; married, at St. Benet Fink's, City, February 4, 1787, William Hamilton, M.D. Issue three daughters and seven sons, of these, ^{2}William, ^{2}William, ^{2}George, ^{2}Emily, ^{2}Jane,* died young or unmarried. ^{2}Caroline, born July, 1790; died 1884; married, at Leyton Church, June 2, 1813, Archibald Billing, M.D. Issue: ^{3}Rose Hamilton, ^{3}Agnes, ^{3}Florence, ^{3}Edith Nicola. ^{3}Rose Hamilton, born 1825, married, 1856, George Long, and had issue: ^{4}Nina Rose, ^{4}Amy Florence, ^{4}Mabel Agnes. ^{3}Agnes Billing, born 1827; married, August 14, 1849, Alexander Sim, and has issue: ^{4}Alexander Billing, ^{4}George Hamilton, ^{4}Archibald Coysgarne, ^{4}the Rev. Stewart Sim, ^{4}Herman Billing, ^{4}Charles Henry, ^{4}Herbert Churchill. ^{3}Florence Billing, unmarried. ^{3}Edith Nicola, born 1833, married, October 6, 1860, Harry Robert Newton. ^{2}Laura Hamilton, born 1798; died 1880; married, January 24, 1829, Robert Bell, and had issue: ^{3}Doyne Courtney, ^{3}Louisa Georgiana, ^{3}Alice, ^{3}Helen Frances, ^{3}Albert Walker, ^{3}Ethel Hamilton. ^{2}Rev. George Hamilton, born 1804; died 1875; married (1), July 28, 1835, Lucy Chinn, and had issue: Sophie, Madeleine; married (2), in 1857, Annie Hawes, and had issue:

* Died 1893.

Emily, Alfred George. [2] Alfred, born 1806, died 1884, married, August 17, 1833, Anne Isabella Craigie.

1 Frances Danvers, youngest daughter of John and Elizabeth Danvers, born July 3, 1770, died 1883, married, October 23, 1790, Thomas Flower Ellis. They had issue: [2] Fanny, [2] Thomas Flower, [2] Elizabeth, [2] John, [2] George Henry, [2] William Stone, [2] Rev. Edward Chauncy, [2] Mary. [2] Fanny, born June 7, 1794; married, July 3, 1817, Henry Crabb, and had issue: [3] John, [3] Fanny, [3] Lucy, [3] Susan Georgiana, [3] Henry, [3] Jessie Pierson, [3] Edward. [3] John died young. [3] Fanny married, January 30, 1849, Henry James Brown, and had issue: [4] Henry Ellis, [4] Alice Lucy, [4] Helen Churchill, [4] Fanny Julia, [4] Edith Georgiana, [4] Lilla Marian, [4] Rose Emmeline. [3] Lucy, unmarried. [3] Susan Georgiana, unmarried. [3] Henry, unmarried. [3] Jessie Pierson married, January 30, 1849, Frederick Collinridge, and had issue: [4] Jessie Ada, [4] Herbert, [4] Frederick Hugh, [4] Florence Isabella, [4] Eveline, [4] Guy Telford. [2] Thomas Flower, born December 5, 1796; married, September 5, 1820, Susanna McTaggart, and had issue: [3] Thomas Flower. [3] Francis Ellis took the name of McTaggart, and married his cousin, Caroline Ellis. They had issue: [4] Susan Edith, [4] John McTaggart, [4] Norman, [4] Telford, [4] Margaret, [4] Susan. [3] Henry died unmarried. [3] Arthur Ellis married, January 5, 1859, Henrietta Amelia Mary Farrar, and had issue: [4] Arthur Francis, [4] Marian Amelia Clare, [4] Horace Telford, [4] Guy Alfred Law, [4] Richard Law Farrar, [4] Thomas Flower, [4] Cecil Flower. [3] Marian Ellis, unmarried. [3] Louisa Ellis, unmarried. [3] Walter Ellis married Alice Bristow. [2] Elizabeth Ellis died unmarried. [2] John Ellis died unmarried. [2] George Henry, born December 22, 1803; married August 15, 1836, Helen Catherine Thompson, and had issue: [3] Desborough, died unmarried, [3] Katherine, died unmarried, [3] Edmund Henry married, August 5, 1885, Dorothea Hilda Danvers, and has issue: [4] Gerald Rochfort, [4] Helen Ginevra, [4] Robert Thornley. [3] Elinor Georgiana married, January 16, 1866, William Jardine, and has issue: [4] William Ellis, [4] Malcolm Robert, [4] Hugh Raoul. [3] Gerald Arthur married, December 28, 1882, Jessie Edith Peacock, and has issue: [4] Walter Affleck, born July 1, 1892.

[3] Henry Vaughan married, October 26, 1877, Helen Churchill Brown, and has issue: [3] Arthur George, [3] Vivian, [3] Eustace. [2] William Stone died unmarried. [2] Rev. Edward Chauncy Ellis married, February 10, 1836, Alice Eade; had issue: [3] Alice Fanny married, February 20, 1862, Robert Stebbing Sadler, and had issue: [4] Dorothy, [4] Godfrey, [4] Sarah, [4] Mary Alice; [3] Emily Mary,

unmarried; [3] Edith married, June 6, 1860, George William Ewen; [3] Janet married, August 6, 1868, Henry Hunter Murdock, and had issue: [4] Alan, [4] Elsie, [4] Mabel, [4] May, [4] Ellis, [4] Bernard, [4] Clive; [3] Caroline Ellis married, January 7, 1864, Francis Ellis, who took the name of McTaggart, issue *ut supra;* [3] Margaret Whitworth, unmarried; [3] Gertrude, unmarried; [3] Chauncy Adair died unmarried; [3] William Henry; [3] Edward Frank married, July 2, 1879, Harriett Cundy, and had issue: [4] Violet Margaret, [4] Sylvia Mary, [4] Millicent Ellis, [4] Chauncy Frank, [4] Alice Katherine, [4] Gertrude Harriett; [3] Kathleen Ellis married, August 7, 1878, Harry Plunkett Williams, and has issue: [4] Cuthbert, [4] Maud, [4] Montgomery, [4] Harry Danvers; [3] Harold Ellis.

[2] Mary Ellis, youngest daughter of Frances Ellis, born January, 1815, unmarried (1894).

II.

As three generations of members of the Fennell and Danvers families have intermarried, a brief notice of the former family is appended. About 1720-30, Hannah Barber or Barbour married . . . Fennell. Hannah had three brothers, William, John, and Edward. Edward Barber was a Captain in the navy (Post Captain, June, 1756); he died in the year 1762, when his will, now at Somerset House, was proved. The will was made at Hornsey, in the year 1755, and in it he mentions his sister, Hannah Fennell, and her children, Samuel, John, William Barber, George, Ann, and Frances. He has nieces, Carter and Curtis, and a cousin, Horabin. His brothers, William and John, are his executors. William Barber died at Exeter in the year 1777. His will was proved January 27, 1777. He desires that he may be buried in the grave of his brother John, in the churchyard of St. David's, Exeter. His burial, January 5, 1777, is in the register of the church. No monument to him can be found in the church or churchyard; but there is in the latter a large flat stone to the memory of a James Barber, who died at Bedminster, Bristol, in August, 1828, aged sixty-one. William Barber's will mentions his nephews, Samuel, John, George, William Barber, and nieces, Frances Barton, Penelope (Penelope married [1] Thomas Redstone, died 1757, æt. forty; [2] . . . Garratt), and Elizabeth Curtis. He leaves legacies to Anne (Redstone), wife of Captain Robert Linzie, R.N., and to her spinster sister, Elizabeth Bowles

Redstone. (Elizabeth subsequently married Jacob Warner, Esq.,* and had a large family.)

John Fennell, son of Harriet Fennell, was executor to his uncle, William Barber. He was in the pay department of the navy, and in the year 1786 was chief clerk for the payment of wages at Chatham. On August 22, 1762, he married Frances, one of the daughters of Samuel Brady, Esq., M.D., physician to the forces at Portsmouth, and his wife, Anne Colby, and by her had a large family. Frances Fennell died July 18, 1793, aged fifty-two. A tombstone in the central aisle of Gillingham Church, near Chatham, marks her grave. Her husband died in the year 1811, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Rochester. The eldest son, William, of John and Frances Fennell, was born June 18, 1763; other sons were James, John, George, Thomas, Edward; daughters, Henrietta, Mary Ann, Frances, Charlotte. James Fennell, born December 11, 1766, wrote 'An Apology for the Life of James Fennell,' published at Philadelphia, U.S., in the year 1814. James was educated at Eton, and gives many curious reminiscences of his life in college. He also mentions that, not long before his birth, his father returned from New York, where he had been in the suite of one of the governors, and that he became chief of the treasury of the Navy Pay Office. He ranks amongst his kinswomen the wives of Admirals Hood, Boyer, Curtis, Linzie. His sister Henrietta married Mr. John Danvers. Four of his brothers were in the navy, and 'fought and bled for their country.' Henrietta, just mentioned, was born March 2, 1765; she married, at St. Nicholas Church, Rochester, John Danvers, Esq., of Hornsey; died May 31, 1836, and was buried in her husband's and his father's grave at Hornsey.

Samuel Fennell, brother to John Fennell, was born in the year 1722. He went into business as a goldsmith and jeweller, and settled at Andover, where he became a J.P., and was once or twice mayor of the town. He married his cousin, Mabella Barber, by whom he had issue: William Barber, George, John, Frances, Henrietta. Samuel Fennell died in the year 1802; his burial is in the Andover Church register. His will was proved in the year 1802, and is at Somerset House; in it he mentions his wife Mabella and their children. George, second son of Samuel, married, on February 27, 1798, Elizabeth Robinson, born October 21, 1776, daughter of Martin Robinson and Mary Ellithorn, and by her had issue: George, Samuel, Frances, Eliza, John Robinson,

---

* From whom the present Sir Joseph Warner is descended.

William Barber, Mary, Alfred, Anna Maria. George Fennell, buried at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, died May 1, 1839. The youngest son, Alfred, born July 28, 1810, now the Rev. Alfred Fennell, late Chaplain in the H.E.I. Company's service, of Mercara, Madras Presidency, is still alive, and has issue. Mary, the third daughter, married Edward Fuller Danvers, Esq., son of John Danvers and Henrietta Fennell. They had several children, of whom the eldest, Augustus, born April 11, 1832, late Captain in the H.E.I. Company's Bengal service, married, on August 3, 1864, at Trinity Church, Paddington, Margaret Elyetson Burra, and has issue, Robert augustus Danvers, married, July 12, 1893, St. Augustine's So. Kens. to Sylvia Bertha Pentorr Ford, and has issue. Robert William Ford Danvers born Sept. 11 1894.

Frances, eldest daughter of George Fennell and his wife, Elizabeth Robinson, born March 17, 1802, married, on August 13, 1823, at Marylebone Parish Church, Daniel Macnamara, Surgeon, R.N. (Macnamara pedigree, registered at the College of Arms, of Dublin and of London), and had issue: John Clavering, George Houseman, Eliza, Henry, Daniel, Francis Nottidge born at Uxbridge, April 11, 1831, Nottidge Charles, Fanny, Nora, Carrol, James, Mary Emily, Oona. Francis, fifth son, married, at the Savoy Chapel, on May 3, 1852, Amy, third daughter of Frederick Dawes Danvers, Esq., son of John Danvers and Henrietta Fennell, and has issue: [1] Henry Danvers Macnamara, M.A., Magdalen College, Oxford, Rector of St. James's, Garlichithe, and Honorary Minor Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, married Alice Glanville, and has issue: [2] Eric Danvers Macnamara, B.A., St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

CHAPTER XV.

A.D. 1600—1794.

THE DANVERS BARONETS OF CULWORTH.

SAMUEL DANVERS died in the year 1603, and was followed* at Culworth by his brother John, who, as we learn from the parish register, was baptized on October 10, 1579. John matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, on October 10, 1594, and became a student of the Middle Temple in 1596. He was knighted on June 1, 1624, and was Sheriff of Northampton for the year 1627. On October 1, 1604, John Danvers married, at Thorpe Mandeville, Dorothy, fourth daughter of Gabriel Pulteney, of Misterton, Leicester, Esq. His wife's family had long been seated at Misterton, a manor which they acquired by the marriage of Adam de Pulteney with Maude de Napton. Adam's son, Sir John Pulteney, five times Lord Mayor of London, was high in favour with King Edward III. Eighth in descent from him was Gabriel, father of Dorothy Danvers. The manor continued in the family till the year 1637, when John Pulteney, the last male heir of the elder branch, died, leaving four sisters as his coheiresses.

John Danvers and his wife Dorothy had seven daughters: Anne, Mary, Susan, Fortitude, Elizabeth, Katherine, Margaret, and three sons: John, Samuel, William. John, the eldest son, was baptized at Culworth on March 18, 1609 (N.S.); he died young. Samuel, baptized October 29, 1611, succeeded his father at Culworth. William, baptized July 8, 1613, was killed at Banbury in the year 1643, fighting for his King, and was buried in the chancel of Danbury Old Church (Rawlinson MS., 400 B.)

---

* See table of descent in Chapter IX. This chapter is based mainly upon Baker's 'History of Northampton,' vol. i., p. 604, *et seq;* upon the wills of the family, now at Somerset House, and upon entries in the registers of Culworth and Thorpe Mandeville.

Of the daughters, Anne, the eldest, was baptized at Thorpe Mandeville, in the year 1605; Mary, baptized at Culworth in December, 1607, married at Culworth, January 1, 1640, Lawrence Manley, of Spratton; Susan, baptized at Culworth, February 20, 1619, married at Culworth, February 21, 1637, Edmund Bray, of Fifield. Her will was proved in 1668 (Hene, 76) by her son, Reginald Bray. She mentions her eldest son, John, and her nieces, Dorothy and Anne Danvers, and her kinsman, John Fiennes. Fortitude, the fourth daughter of Sir John, was baptized in 1615, died March, 1617; Katherine in 1619. Fortitude died young, and was buried at Culworth in the year 1615. Elizabeth, baptized December 30, 1617, as we learn from a probate document attached to her father's will, married Richard Zouche.* Margaret, on June 5, 1634, married, at Culworth, Thomas Ryslye,† of Chetwode. As we also learn from the will of Sir John Danvers, he had a daughter, Greswold,‡ who was the Katherine, baptized in May, 1619, married, May 14, 1638, John Greswold.

Like his grandfather, Sir John Danvers attempted to increase his domain at the expense of the villagers, and a deed now amongst those belonging to Culworth Church shows that in the year 1609 he enclosed lands then lying open and in common fields, but on the protest of the freeholders and others agreed to pay as compensation one hundred pounds, to be employed for the relief of the poor as the minister and churchwardens should appoint. Additional Charters, Culworth series, 38899, 38900, 38904 and 38905, all relate to John's misdoings with reference to the lands of the Culworth freeholders, and they include a pardon under the Great Seal for his transgressions. Sir John Danvers, æt. 63, was buried at Culworth on February 17, 1642. Additional Charter 38906 is the will of Sir John Danvers; it is registered at Somerset House as Essex, 7. He does not mention his eldest son, Samuel, but makes provision out of his personal estate for his wife, for his son William, and for his daughters Anne and Elizabeth, and leaves legacies to his daughters Rysley, Bray, and Greswold. The will was made on December 2, 1641. The executors, his 'noble cousins,' Sir John Danvers, of Chelsea, and Sir Peter Osborne.

---

* Probably Richard Zouche, Judge of High Court of Admiralty, died in March, 1660; according to Anthony Wood, a subtle logician, an expert historian, and, as regards civil law, the chief person of his time.

† Thomas Risley, Sheriff of Bucks, 1662, ob. 1671; married Margaret, daughter of John Danvers of Culworth. Cf. Lipscomb's 'History of Bucks,' vol. iii., p. 3. Their son, John Risley, married Christian Temple, sister to the Sir W. Temple who married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Peter Osborne.

‡ Amongst some Danvers deeds which are, or were, in possession of Mrs. Roberts of Wokingham, is one dated November 3, 1633, which gives to John Blincoe the guardianship of John, son and heir of Edward Greswold, deceased.

Sir John Danvers was succeeded by his son Samuel, born October 29, 1612 (N.S.), who at the time of his father's death was over thirty years of age. In the year 1634 Samuel Danvers married Anne, daughter of Sir William Pope, eldest son of William, first Earl of Downe. The Earl built, besides the mansion of Wroxton, another large house at Cogges, near the site of the ancient Priory, and in this house Sir William died, and here, after his death, his daughter was betrothed to Samuel Danvers. The allegation of marriage is in the Bishop's registry at Oxford—'Samuel Danvers of Culworth, aged about twenty-three, bachelor, to Anne Pope of Cogges, aged eighteen, spinster, with consent of the father of Samuel and the mother of Anne.'

Anne's brother, Thomas Pope, born at Cogges in 1622, was second Earl of Downe in succession to his grandfather, but he, like his brother-in-law, Samuel Danvers, suffered severely for his activity in the Royal cause, and was obliged to sell his house and estate at Cogges.

Amongst the Domestic State Papers of the years 1640-41 are several notices of Samuel Danvers. In May, 1640, he, together with John Rye of Culworth, Sir Thomas Pope of Aynho, William Pargeter, John Danby Mayor of Northampton, and Braye of Farthinghoe, were apprehended on council warrant, and were imprisoned for refusing to pay coat and conduct money, one of the illegal exactions which were made at this period. In July Samuel Danvers paid his assessment and was released; nor does his conduct appear to have been displeasing to the Crown, or, at any rate, it was forgiven, for in March, 1642-43, he was made a baronet. On the breaking out of the Civil War Sir Samuel took the Royalist side, and his brother William obtained a commission as lieutenant in the Earl of Northampton's horse.

In the year 1644, as we learn from the 'Iter Carolinum' ('Somers Tracts,' vol. v., p. 266), the King slept on Thursday, June 27, at Sir Samuel's house at Culworth, and, to tell the tale briefly, it was in this way that the King came to be at the village. Pressed at Oxford by the Parliamentary forces under Essex and Waller, the King escaped with his army and made a rapid march to Worcester, deceiving and eluding Waller, who followed him. On his return the armies became opposed to one another at Banbury, where Waller strongly established himself in and around the town, while the King's army was posted on the other side the Cherwell. On June 27, the King, in order to draw Waller from his strong position, made as if he would further enter Northamptonshire, and his first day's march brought him to Culworth, where he slept. The move had the desired effect, and Waller with his army coasted along the high ground through Little and Great Bourton, while the King with his army marched northward along the Northamptonshire side of the valley. It was when in the neighbourhood of Cropredy that the King, hearing that a reinforcement for his enemies was crossing to the north of his army, hastened forward with a view to cutting it off, and this he did so hastily that the main body of the army became separated from the rear. Waller, from the heights of Bourton, perceived the error, marched down upon Cropredy Bridge, forced it, and endeavoured to interpose his forces between the divisions of the King's army. Then followed the battle of Cropredy Bridge, in which the gallantry of his cavalry retrieved the King's error, and inflicted upon Waller a severe defeat. On the road from Cropredy Bridge to Williamscote may still be seen, extending for some distance, double hedges which Waller lined with his troops, and from which they were driven by the King's horse.

To return to Sir Samuel, in the year 1648-49 he was Sheriff of the county, and the London papers of the time report that after the King's death he rode to the assizes, himself and his retinue, clothed in black. He is not found amongst the number of those who compounded for their estates, but the tradition is that he had to pay very heavily for his loyalty, probably in the way of taxes laid upon him by Cromwell's Major-General of the county. Anyhow, like many other Royalists, he became impoverished, and was obliged to leave Culworth for a time, retreating to the smaller manor house of Fritwell, which a few years previously he had bought after the death of its previous owner, Colonel Sandys. Sir Samuel sold the manor to Samuel Cox, Esq.

In the year 1653 we again have the Culworth parish accounts, and Sir Samuel's contribution heads 'the levies made by the minister and churchwardens.' The total receipts in the year 1654 are £6 9s., and the disbursements £6 8s. The principal charges are to the house of correction, 12s.; bread and wine for Holy Communion at Michaelmas, Christmas, and Easter, 16s., 14s., and £1 17s. In another place we find that the latter sum represented the purchase of four gallons of wine, which the churchwardens must have used for other purposes than that for which it was purchased. Other ordinary charges about this period are for the bell-ropes, which cost 13s., and for attendance on visitations at Brackley.

In the year 1657 there is a charge of £11 7s. for 'casting the bell and metell to put to it.' For carrying the bell and bringing it back, £1 4s. For the carpenter for his work, 17s.; and the smith for his work, 8s.

But there is, besides the book for the charges of the churchwardens and work about the church, a book of accounts for the 'overseere for the poore.' At this time £3 half-yearly was the sum disbursed in the way of outdoor relief and to goodwives for looking after old and sick people. The sums allowed varied from one to twelve shillings, and about twenty poor people received relief. Five shillings is charged for making the grave of a pauper and for his burial, and eightpence for 'toleing the bell and registering his death.'

In the year 1661 are many entries of charges contingent upon the happy return of his Majesty. £2 4s. for setting up the King's arms; a form of prayer for his Majesty's return, 1s.; a form for January 30, the day of the late King's martyrdom; £2 7s. for a surplice which now at last the minister, Mr. Gilbert, may use; 10s. for a hood; 6s. for a book of Homilies; 10s. for a new Book of Common Prayer. It may be noted that in the year 1661-62 Sir Samuel Danvers, Sir T. Cave, and O'Brien Cockayne, Esq., were deputy-lieutenants for the county of Northampton.

In the years 1680 and 1681 Sir Samuel Danvers still heads the list of ratepayers, but in the latter year Pope d'Anvers signs the accounts, and in the year 1682 Sir Pope d'Anvers takes his father's place at the head of the list. Sir Samuel died on January 27, 1683, and was buried at Culworth on the 30th. He left no will, and his estate was administered to by his son, Sir Pope Danvers, on April 27, 1683. His wife, Ann, predeceased him, and was buried at Culworth on March 27, 1678. They had several children, of whom John, the eldest, died young, and was buried on June 23, 1643. Samuel, the second son, also died young. Pope, the third son, was baptized December 12, 1644; he succeeded his father. Ann, baptized February 10, 1642. Mary, baptized September 6, 1643, died an infant. Dorothy survived her father, and died unmarried in September, 1710.

Ann, the eldest daughter, became the first wife of Sir John Marsham.* This Sir John was the eldest son of the first Sir John Marsham, an eminent loyalist and a learned antiquary and historian. His son, the second Sir John, husband to Ann Danvers, was also a very learned gentleman. Ann died in the year 1672, aged thirty, and was buried at Cuxton, near Rochester. She left no children. Her husband after her death married Hester, daughter of Sir George Sayer, and had a son, who, however, died young, and Sir John was succeeded by his brother, Sir Robert Marsham, from whom are descended the family of Marsham, Earl of Romney.

---

* Brydges' 'Collins' Peerage,' vol v., p. 482.

In September of the year 1678, Robert Marsham, in a letter still extant, states that he was on a visit to Sir Samuel Danvers at Fritwell, and was witness of a fatal quarrel which occurred there between Pope Danvers, Sir Samuel's eldest son, and a Mr. Jackman. The letter, apart from its connection with the Danvers history, is interesting as an illustration of the manners and customs of the time, and runs as follows: 'The ninth of September I going to Fritwell to visit Sir Samuell Danvers, he carried me to an alehouse, and after some time wanting company, sent for one Mr. Jackman, who came to us, and immediately after him Mr. Pope Danvers, who had been enquiring before for me. After we had all drunk too freely, Mr. Danvers began a whole flaggon, which every one pledged, and then began two flaggons in a hand, which every one refused but Mr. Jackman. When Mr. Jackman's flaggons were filled, Mr. Danvers denying that they were so full as his, Mr. Jackman gave him the lye, whereupon Mr. Danvers struck him, and they fought. I parted them twice in the house, afterwards they went out of doors, I followed them, but coming into the air I doe not well remember what happened afterwards. The witnesses swear that they were down one on the top of another, and that I was standing by with my sworde drawne. Afterwards I went home with Sir Samuel and his son. The next morning, being the tenth, Mr. Danvers having been very ill, desired me to go out with him to take the aire. I knowing nothing of any other desyne, went along with him into the common field, when I saw four or five men walking together, and att some distance foure more, whereof one was Mr. Jackman. I not suspecting any thing of a duell in the presence of so many men, went to talk with some of the men. In the interim Mr. Jackman and Mr. Danvers met and fought, and after three or four brisk passes, before that we could come to part them, Mr. Jackman fell down dead. After which I went about my affairs, and staid three or four days in the country without any disturbance, and then came away. The Coroner's inquest have found it wilful murder in Mr. Danvers, but nothing concerning me.'*

* Domestic State Papers, Charles II., vol. 133, No. 99.

On November 9 following the duel, administration* of the goods of William Jackman, of Fritwell, Co. Oxon., was granted to his widow. The story of the duel is carried on by a petition (undated) of Robert Marsham to the King, which is as follows: 'Petitioner had misfortune to be present when Pope Danvers, Esq^{re}, killed William Jackman, (but your Petitioner had no hand in the fact), neither had he his sword drawn. That the Coroner's Inquest hath since found that fact to be murder, and the law being very strict in such cases, your Petitioner may be in danger of the punishment, though not guilty, and therefore begs his Majesty,'† etc. On June 30, 1679, Mr. Marsham's petition was granted, and by the King's command, under the Privy Seal, letters patent were issued granting his royal pardon to Robert Marsham concerning the death and killing of William Jaqueman, alias Jackman.‡ On November 29 following, by the King's command,§ under the Privy Seal, letters patent were issued granting his royal pardon to Pope Danvers concerning the death and killing of William Jackman, late of Fritwell.

Sir Pope Danvers succeeded his father in the baronetcy. He was educated at Oxford, where he matriculated at Trinity College in December, 1661. In the year 1664 he entered as a student of the Middle Temple. He married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of William Barker,‖ of Sunning, Berks, Esq., and by her had several children. Barker, the eldest, died young, in January, 1694. Rowland¶ also died young, on November 22, 1697. John, born July 10, 1673, succeeded his father. Daniel, the next son, born June, 1681, also survived his father. Elizabeth died young, buried October 16, 1691. Ann also died young, buried February 4, 1702. Mary survived her father, and died unmarried, August, 1715. Frances, born January, 1684, died July, 1750. Finetta, born February, 1687, died March, 1730.

---

* Somerset House, Administration Act Book of 1678, folio 132, verso.

† Domestic State Papers, Charles II., vol. 229, No. 157.

‡ P.R.O., Privy Seals, 31 Charles II., June, and Signet Office Docquets, vol. xviii., June, 1679.

§ P.R.O., Privy Seals, 31 Charles II., November 29, 1679, and Signet Office Docquets, vol. xviii., November, 1679. For a knowledge of these, and some of the foregoing documents, we are indebted to the courtesy of the Hon. Robert Marsham Townshend, a descendant of the Robert Marsham of the text.

‖ Barker of Sunning, 'Genealogist,' vol. v., p. 231; and Harleian Society, vol. xii., p. 361.

¶ Admitted to Winchester College in 1692. Rowland, C.F., aged 11, Culworth.

Sir Pope Danvers' will (Barnes, 111) was proved in the year 1712. He does not mention his eldest son and heir, John, but mentions his son Daniel, and states that at the time of his marriage he had settled on him a moiety of the rectory of Sunning, with its appurtenances, including land in Berks and Oxon, and the tithes of the parish. The other moiety he bequeaths to his wife Anne for her life, and after her death to his daughters, Mary, Frances, and Finetta. All his household goods he leaves to his wife.

We have also the will of Sir Pope's sister, Dorothy (Smith, 199), made in 1709, proved in 1710. She desires that she may be buried near her father and mother, and leaves £40 to be laid out in a marble or stone monument to their memory and that of her nieces, Elizabeth and Anne, to be placed above their graves on the pier between the east and south windows in the chancel of the church. The monument, if ever erected, has disappeared. Dorothy also mentions her beloved friend, the Dowager Countess of Lindsey, to whom she leaves her grandmother Wentworth's picture, and to her son, the Hon. Charles Bertie, she leaves £50. To Brigadier Thomas Poulteney, her godson, she leaves twenty guineas 'to buy a repeating clock, that he may be punctual to count the hour.' To her niece, Mary Danvers, she leaves £100 'to show her charity, though she never loved me.' To her nephew, Daniel Danvers, she leaves £800. Her niece Dorothy is her residuary legatee and executor.

This Daniel Danvers was fourth son of Sir Pope, and was of Eydon, Northampton, and Lower Worton, Oxon. He married, in 1712, Martha, daughter and co-heiress of the Rev. Moses Hodges, of Sulgrave. His will (Boycott, 6) was proved in 1743 by his son and executor, John Danvers.* In

* John Danvers', of Thorpe Mandeville, will (Edmunds, 43), proved in 1746, mentions his sister Martha, aunt Frances, cousins Henry, Michael and Meriel.

it he mentions his wife, Martha, his eldest son, Barker Danvers, other sons, John and Moses Hodges, and a daughter, Anne. Apparently another child was expected at the time of his death. A monument formerly existed to his memory in Lower Worton Church, but was removed, and lost at the time of the restoration of the church. None of Daniel's sons left children, but his daughter, Martha, married, September 17, 1746, at Thorpe Mandeville Church, Daniel Rich, of the Temple, son of Sir Robert Rich, of Sunning. They had children, Daniel, Martha, and Francis. To Martha and Francis, Mrs. Meriel Danvers devised the manor of Culworth.

Sir Pope Danvers was followed at Culworth by his eldest surviving son, Sir John Danvers, born July 10, 1673.

Sir John was three times married: (1) To Meriel, daughter of Sir Robert Leicester, of Tabley, Chester; (2) to Susan, sister and co-heiress of Sir Ed. Nicolls, of Faxton and Hardwick; (3) to Mary, daughter of the Rev. John Hutchins, rector of the neighbouring village of Eydon.

Sir Robert Leicester, father of Meriel, descended from a very ancient Cheshire family, long seated at Tabley. His wife's name was Meriel Watson, and they had, besides the daughter, a son, Sir Francis, who followed his father. Sir Francis had but one child, another Meriel, from whom the present family of de Tabley is descended. Sir John Danvers and Meriel had one child, Samuel, born at Tabley in December, 1701, at whose birth Meriel died. Samuel died unmarried, February 5, 1723.

Sir John's second wife, Susan Nicolls, was co-heiress with her brother, Edward, to her father, Sir Edward Nicolls, Bart., of Faxton. Sir Edward the younger died without male heirs, and the baronetcy then became extinct. Jane, a sister of Susan's, married (1) John Raynsford, of Bridgworth, Esq., and (2) . . . Kemsey, Esq. This second marriage of Sir John's was a very unhappy one, and after much quarrelling (Rawlinson MS., 381), verbal and epistolary, he and his wife separated, and she returned to her home at Faxton, where she died in June, 1730. They had no children. In her will (Auber, 186) she leaves the bulk of her property to her nephew, John Nicolls Raynsford, with remainder to his brothers, Stephen Justinian and Francis; she also mentions her sister, Jane Kemsey, of Quarndon.

On Lady Susan's death, Sir John married his neighbour, Mary Hutchins, daughter of the Rector of Eydon, by whom he had sons, Henry, born April 30, 1731, Anthony, born in 1734, died in infancy, Michael, born September 29, 1738, and a daughter, Meriel, born March, 1732-33. Mary, born in March, 1737, died young.

Sir John died September 26, 1744, and was buried in the chancel of Culworth Church. His will (Probate Office, Northampton) was made in the year 1740, and seems to show that his third, like his second marriage, was not a happy one. He appoints Nicholas Talbot, his old servant, guardian of all his children, and bequeaths to him all his property—goods, plate, houses, lands, to be divided by him equally amongst the children. However, as Sir John had not appointed an executor, administration was granted on October 5, 1745, to his widow, Mary. It is said that shortly after her husband's death the widow married a villager of humble station. She died at Culworth in January, 1785, æt. seventy-five.

Sir John was succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, Sir Henry, born April 30, 1731, died, unmarried, August 10, 1753. He was succeeded by his brother, Sir Michael, the last baronet, born September 29, 1738, died, unmarried, on August 20, 1776. He was Sheriff of Northampton in the year 1763, and the last sheriff of his family for the county of Northampton; the first was his ancestor, Sir John Danvers, of Culworth and Dauntsey, who filled the office in the year 1494.

Sir Michael's will (Collier, 62) was made in the year 1755, proved on February 8, 1777. He made his sister Meriel his executor, and to her left all his estate. Mrs. Meriel Danvers died in 1794, leaving the manor of Culworth and its appurtenances to her cousins, Miss Martha and Miss Frances Rich, of Sunning. The Rectorial tithes of Culworth Mrs. Meriel gave to the living, together with twenty-four acres of land. Also she erected in Culworth a school-house for the poor inhabitants of the village, and in November, 1795, her cousins, the Misses Rich, settled upon trustees this school-house and an annuity of £65 a year, charged on lands in the parish, for the benefit of the school.

On the glebe land which Miss Danvers gave to the school a large mansion once stood, which was probably built by the last Sir John Danvers. The house is figured amongst a series of drawings of Northamptonshire houses, which is now in the British Museum (Additional MS. 32647), and is entitled, 'Mansion of Sir John Danvers, Bart., 1721.'

The house was pulled down about the year 1781, and from the materials of the fabric were built a house in the village now known as Danvers House, and the Danvers school-house.

The Rich family sold the Culworth estate, and the manor house became the property of a Mrs. Linnell. On her death her daughters sold it to a Mr. John Eaglestone, by whom it was completely dismantled. He sold the great oak staircase, up which, it was said, eight people could walk abreast, and he also tore down and removed all the oak fittings, fireplaces, mantelpieces, and the lead from the roof. He entirely altered the rooms, turned part of the house into cottages, opened a door from the parlour upon the village street, and closed the old entrance to the hall. On the death of Mr. Eaglestone's daughter the house was sold to General Crutchley.

The alterations and modern additions which have been made since Miss Meriel Danvers' death have robbed the house of much of its picturesqueness, and few who now view it would suppose that for several generations the house was the home of an ancient and notable county family. Doubtless the walls, or parts of them, are at least as old as the time of William Danvers and his wife Elizabeth Fiennes, and within the house there still remains the well or spring, which probably in Saxon times made the site that of the first manor house of Culeorde.

Finally, Miss Meriel Danvers placed upon the north wall of the chancel of Culworth Church the monument to the memory of members of her family who were (to her knowledge) buried in the church. The monument is thoroughly Georgian in design, and is but an imperfect record of the burials of the family within the church. The inscription it bears is as follows:

'Sacred
To the memory of those
Whose remains have been deposited
Within these walls,
Bearing the Name of D'Anvers.
Sir John D'Anvers, Knight, was buried Febry. 17, 1642, aged 63.
Sir Samuel D'Anvers, Knight and Baronet, was buried June 27, 1682, aged 73.
Sir Pope D'Anvers, Baronet, buried Sepr. 26, 1744, aged 71.
Sir Henry D'Anvers, Baronet, was buried August 13, 1753, aged 22.
Sir Michael D'Anvers, Baronet, was buried August 20, 1775, aged 37.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.
Even so, saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours."

This monument was ordered to be erected by their descendant,
Meriel D'Anvers.
1790.'

Miss Danvers was buried at Sandford, in Oxfordshire. The following is the inscription on her tomb in the churchyard of that place:

'Underneath
Lie the remains of Miss Meriel D'Anvers, Spinster, of Culworth in Northamptonshire, who died at Mr. Heywood's, of Kingsmill House, in this parish, November 15, 1794, aged 64 years.'

CHAPTER XVI.

A.D. 1120—1450.

The Danvers of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire were the elder branch of the family,* and sprung from Ralph de Aluers, of Dorney, Marlow and Hitcham, who died early in the twelfth century. This branch failed in the male line with the death, in the year 1439, of William Danvers, of Winterbourne, Berks. We begin with a brief sketch of the descent of the manors of Marlow, Little Marlow, and Dorney, in order to show how it came about that some of the leading families of an early period in English history were associated with the Danvers family in the affairs of Marlow and Dorney.

In the Domesday record we find the manor of Marlow (Merlawe) held by Queen Matilda, and we find no mention there of the existence of more than one manor in Marlow. Ralph and Roger held lands in Marlow of Milo Crispin, and Mr. Langley, in his 'History of the Hundred of Desborough,' assumes that this holding constituted the manor of Widmer, which, as well as the manors of Harleyford and Seymours, were from a very early period manors in the parish of Marlow. But Mr. Langley adduces no evidence as to the date when these manors were constituted.† Another manor in the same

---

* See table of descent in Chapter I. This chapter shows that investigations made amongst the ancient records since Vincent's time enable us to make additions to his work.

† If Widmer was not a manor at the time of the Domesday record, it shortly after became such, and on the death of Milo Crispin fell to the Crown, from whose possession it passed into that of the Knights Templars. On the dissolution of the Order, Widmer was granted to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. At the time of the Domesday Survey Widmer was a considerable hamlet, having a mansion and some twenty houses.

Hundred, that of Desborough, is in Domesday Book called 'Berlawe,' and was held by Tedaldus of the Bishop of Bayeux. It is quite possible that 'Berlawe' ought to have been written 'Merlawe,' for it is known that mistakes were made by clerks who copied the original returns, and Mr. Langley assumes that this 'Berlawe' was the manor of Little Marlow.

As regards the history of Queen Matilda's manor of Marlow, it passed from her possession into that of her son, Henry I., who bestowed it upon his natural son, Robert, Earl of Gloucester; hence Marlow became one of the fiefs of the honor of Gloucester. Robert's predecessor in the earldom was Robert Fitzhamon, who married the Conqueror's niece, Sybil, and was therefore kin to William Rufus, from whom he received the Earldom of Gloucester. It was this Robert Fitzhamon who founded the Abbey of Tewkesbury, to atone, so it is said, for wrongs done by him to the English race. He left no son to inherit his vast possessions, and Henry I. gave his heiress, Mabell, in marriage to his son, Robert, whom he created on the occasion Earl of Gloucester. The proud daughter of Fitzhamon would not receive as her husband the nameless man—albeit, the King's son—till his father had raised him to the earldom. This Robert was the great Earl of Gloucester, the faithful and chivalrous supporter of his half-sister, the Empress Matilda, and her son, afterwards Henry II. He died in the year 1147, leaving as his successor his son, William, who died in the year 1183, leaving as his heiresses three daughters—Mabell, Amice, and Isabel. Mabell married Almaric de Montfort, Count of Evreux, who in right of his wife became Earl of Gloucester, but dying childless, the earldom, and with it the manor of Marlow, went to Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Hertford,

---

The Templars built here a house with a chapel. The latter remains, and judging from the style of its architecture, dates from about the middle of the twelfth century. On the north side are two lancet windows, on the south the remains of three Decorated windows. The east window, now blocked up, is also of the Decorated style. The chapel is thirty-eight feet long by seventeen broad, and beneath is a crypt of late Norman work, consisting of two aisles divided by four arches resting on massive round pillars. The building is used as the dairy and storehouse of the adjacent farmhouse, the walls of which appear to include portions of an ancient building which may be coeval with the chapel.—'Records of Bucks,' vol. iii., p. 122.

who received it in right of his mother, Amicia, heiress to her sister, Mabell de Montfort. Gilbert was the first joint Earl of Gloucester and Hertford.

Isabel, the youngest sister of Mabel and Amicia, married Prince John, who, however, on coming to the throne, divorced her. Their daughter, Eleanor, married William Marshall (Mareschal), second Earl of Pembroke of that name, and their daughter, Isabel, married her cousin, Gilbert de Clare, son of Amicia, whose son and heir, Richard, died in the year 1262. It was his widow, Maude, who, in the year 1263, was one of the patrons of the priory of Little Marlow. Maude took as her second husband Ralph de Monthermer, who in right of his wife became titular Earl of Gloucester. With William Danvers he was, in the year 1299, co-patron of the priory.

As regards Little Marlow, it appears to have become at a very early period an appanage of the honor of Wallingford. Assuming that 'Berlawe' of the Domesday Book is 'Little Marlow,' the manor belonged, in the year 1086, to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and, on the forfeiture of his lands by William Rufus in the year 1088, it was annexed to the honor, and fell under the suzerainty, first of Milo Crispin, and then of Brian Fitz-Count. It was probably during this period that the Danvers family obtained, if not the manor, lands in the village. Vincent calls Ralph Danvers 'of Little Marlow,' and there is a tradition, repeated by three or four of the genealogists of the family, that Ralph and his son, Roland, were dapifers, stewards, of the honor of Wallingford, of which Milo and Fitz-Count were lords. The honor of Wallingford, on the death of Brian Fitz-Count,* was seized by the King, and from him passed to his son, Richard I., on whose death the honor came into the possession of John. With John's daughter, Eleanor, the honor, or certainly some of the estates appertaining to it, passed to her husband, the Earl of Pembroke, and went with their heiress, Isabel, to Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. In the year 1244, Isabel, Countess of Gloucester, and Sir Ralph Danvers, were joint patrons of the Priory of Little Marlow. In the early part of the thirteenth century the families of Danvers and Neyrunt held lands in

* See J. H. Croft's 'Chronicles of Wallingford Castle.'

Little Marlow, and in the year 1328 William Danvers is called, in the Bishop of Lincoln's 'Institutions,' 'Dominus' of Little Marlow, while in the year 1324 he and Milo Beauchamp held fiefs in Little Marlow, which they had from their ancestors —in the case of Milo Beauchamp in the female line, the Neyrunts. In 10 Edward III. John de Stonor died seised of Little Marlow, and in the 36th year of the same reign Edward le Despencer was Lord of Marlow and one of the patrons of Little Marlow Nunnery. 46 Edward III. Hugo Danvers, son of William Danvers, remitted to John Attchul of Wouburne his right in the manor of Little Marlow, and in 15 Richard II. John Danvers of Stanton Derby released the manor of Little Marlow to Thomas Chebrey. Before the dissolution the manor was vested in the prioress of Little Marlow, and on the dissolution of the nunnery was granted to Bisham Abbey. The lands went to Lord Williams, then to Wilmot, then to the Borlase family, which became extinct in the male line in 1688, and the manor went, with a daughter, to Arthur Warren, and then passed through many hands (Langley's 'Desborough'). John Pattison Ellames, Esq., J.P., is now lord of the manor.

The village of Little Marlow is situated on the north bank of the Thames, and about a mile and a half east of Great Marlow. The church and the neighbouring manor house stand between the village and the river. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is mainly Perpendicular, and consists of chancel and south aisle, nave and aisles, and west tower. The oldest part is the chancel, which is Norman and Early English, the font is also Norman. The church was restored in the year 1866, when the removal of a plaster ceiling exposed the original timber roof. The manor house,* 'a large old structure,' writes Lysons, was rebuilt in the year 1800, but not entirely, for lately, on removing the wall of one of the bedrooms, the arch of a fireplace was uncovered, which a competent architect affirmed to be of the period of Henry IV. The house also possesses an ancient underground passage, which connects the present cellars with a pond which formed a part of the moat.

---

* Now the residence of J. P. Ellames, J.P., lord of the manor, to whose courtesy we are obliged for the above-mentioned details.

About a mile to the east of the church are the scanty remains of the priory of Little Marlow, situated in low ground near the river, hence, no doubt, its old name, 'de Fontibus de Merlawe.' The house was a small priory for Benedictine nuns, and was dedicated to St. Mary. All that remains of it is a building which may have been the granary, and possibly a portion of one wall which forms the gable end of the farmhouse that now occupies the site. In dry weather the foundations of the hall and of the church may still be traced. As late as the year 1709, a considerable portion of the buildings remained, and on the east wall of the church might be seen a painting of the Blessed Virgin attended by two saints, as also some armorial bearings. The hall was twenty yards long by five yards wide, and as the community was a very small one, numbering no more than six sisters, they must have been much given to hospitality to require so large a hall.

As regards the founder of this religious house there is much difference of opinion. Lipscomb says it is involved in obscurity. Browne Willis (MSS., vol. x., Bodleian) thinks the year 1218 that of its foundation. Mr. de Gray Birch, who has written on the subject ('English Topography'), dates the foundation during or before the reign of John. The foundation has been ascribed to an ancestor of Henry III., but on no better grounds than that Henry gave land to the house, for the deed of gift (Close Roll, 14 Henry III., M. 11) shows nothing to support this theory.

The circumstances which bear upon the vexed question seem to be these: The priory was founded in, or possibly a little anterior to, the reign of King John—Langley thinks about the year 1220. The evidence for so early a period as John's reign is a charter in the chartulary of Missenden Abbey,* which is stated to be of the age of John, in which the prioress of Little Marlow is mentioned. 'Ego, "A." (*sic.*) priorissa de fontibus de Merlawe et ejusdem loci humilis conventûs.' Now, at that time the Danvers family had been for many years settled in Little Marlow, and were in all probability lords of the manor, and, as were their near descendants, owners of one mediety of the church. In the year 1196 died Sir Roland Danvers, and in the year 1212 died his brother Ralph, both of them leaving children who were under age, and Ralph, if not Roland, a widow also. Their families were placed respectively in the custody of the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Jordan de Valoines. In the year 1230 Agnes Danvers is patroness of the priory, and consents to the election of Matilda Danvers. We have therefore good grounds for believing that this Agnes was widow of Roland or Ralph, and very probably mother of Matilda. Is it not more than probable that Agnes, who at the time was the only patroness of the house, was its founder, and very possibly the first prioress, and the 'A.' priorissa of the charter just now mentioned? In the year 1244 Sir Ralph Danvers, son and heir of Sir Roland, and Isabel, Countess of Gloucester, were joint patrons of the priory, and we may well suppose that Agnes Danvers before her death sought to safeguard the recently-founded community by placing it under the joint patronage of the powerful Countess of Gloucester, by descent suzerain of the honor of Wallingford, of which the Danvers family held their fief. In the year 1298 William Danvers, son or grandson of the Ralph just mentioned, took a part in the election of a prioress, and in the year 1305 he and the Countess of Gloucester were joint patrons, and this is the last mention which we have discovered of the connection of the Danvers family with the affairs of the priory. The last prioress was Margaret Vernun, who in 26 Henry VIII. was made Abbess of Malling, in Kent. Her former house was transferred to Bisham Abbey, but preparatory only to the dissolution of both houses in the year 1537. A lease of the lands of the nunnery was granted at the dissolution to John Titley and Elizabeth Restwold, and the lands were alienated in 3 and 4 Philip and Mary to Lord Williams of Thame and Henry Norreys.

---

* Harleian MS. 3688, folio 92*b*.

None of the registers of the house remain; an impression of the seal was appended to a deed of 22 Henry VII. It represented the Blessed Virgin Mary, bearing in her lap the infant Jesus, and sitting, crowned, upon a throne between two slender figures who supported an ornamented arch. In the *exergue* in a niche was a half-length figure of an ecclesiastic adoring the Saint.

Dorney,* another of the earliest possessions of the Danvers family in England, is a Buckinghamshire village, situated on the north bank of the Thames, about two miles west of Eton. Before the Conquest the manor was held by Aldred, a vassal of Earl Morcar's. In the Domesday record Ralph holds it of Milo Crispin. This Ralph we believe to be the Sir Ralph Danvers whom Vincent and other genealogists tell us held the manor of Milo Crispin, as of the honor of Wallingford. In the year 1244, and again in the year 1265, Sir Ralph Danvers presented to the Rectory, but it would seem that at this period Sir Ralph gave the Dorney estate, with his daughter Alice,† to Richard Neyrunt, the advowson of the church and some land in the village remaining to Ralph's son, who alienated these also. The latest mention that we have of the family in connection with Dorney is in the year 1331, when a certain Robert,‡ called 'le Priour,' sold a messuage and curtilage in Dorney, which he had by gift from Alice Danvers, probably Ralph's widow. From the Neyrunts the estate passed to the Beauchamps and the Canes; in the 'Nomina Villarum,' 1316, Milo de Bello Campo (Beauchamp) and Nicholas de Cane have Dorney and Hitcham. Since then the manor has passed through many hands, but was finally bought, in the year 1629, by Sir James Palmer, with whose descendants it remains.

The church, which stands on the outskirts of the village, between it and the river, consists of nave, chancel, and tower —the latter late Perpendicular, the rest of the church Decorated and Perpendicular. But in the walls of the nave and chancel are windows and doors, now blocked, rudely constructed of rough stones, which must be of very ancient work, antedating the font, which is a fine specimen of late Norman work. One is inclined to suggest that Ralph de Alvers, mindful of the fine font in the church of his paternal home, placed this font in Dorney Church; but whether this be so or no, doubtless in it were baptized more than one of the Danvers family of Dorney. The manor house, known as 'the mansion,' stands close to the church, and at one time was 'a very great house.' Part of the fabric is of ancient architecture.

---

* Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. iii.

† Pedigree of Danvers in Mr. Camden's handwriting, Bodleian MS., 4162; also Vincent's pedigree of the family in College of Arms.

‡ Ancient deeds (Record Office), A. 112.

Within a short distance of the village are the picturesque ruins of Burnham Abbey, of which part is now incorporated in a modern dwelling-house. The Abbey was founded by Richard, King of the Romans and Earl of Cornwall, in the year 1265, for Augustinian nuns, and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. To the Abbey the advowson of Dorney Church passed after its alienation by William Danvers.

Unfortunately we have not in the case of the Buckinghamshire family of Danvers, as in that of their Oxfordshire relatives, registers such as those of the Abbeys of Thame and Eynsham to help in settling the order of descent. Yet the institutions of the Bishops of Lincoln to the rectories of Dorney, Little Marlow, and Little Marlow Priory, give us some assistance; and we learn from two authentic documents, first, that in the year 1291 the rectory of Little Marlow* was in two medieties, one of which belonged to the family of Beauchamp, the other to that of Danvers; secondly, that in the year 1346 William Danvers and Milo de Bello Campo (Beauchamp) held a fief in Little Marlow *in capite* of the honor of Wallingford, which their ancestors held before them.† From the Bishops' Institutions, we learn that in the year 1230 Agnes de Auvers was patroness of the Priory of Little Marlow, and consented to the election of Matilda de Auvers as prioress.‡ In the year 1244 Dominus Rad. de Auvers, Miles, presented to the rectory of Dorney. In the year 1237 the Bishop of Carlisle, having custody of the heirs and lands of Richard Neirunt (or Nernuit), presented to the mediety of the rectory of Little Marlow. In the year 1249 Sir Milo Neirunt presented. In the year 1263 the Countess of Gloucester and Sir Ralph de Anuers were the patrons of the priory. In the year 1265 Sir Ralph presented to Dorney Rectory. About this time Sir Ralph died, and it was probably before his son came of age that the Bishop of Lincoln presented in the year 1270. In the year 1274 the

---

* Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., A.D. 1291.

† Books of aids of 20 Edward III.

‡ Extracted from the original rolls, which are at the Bishop's palace at Lincoln. The rolls do not commence till during the time of Bishop Hugo de Wells, 1209-1235.

Bishop presented to the Neirunt mediety of the rectory of Little Marlow. In 1290 Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, exercised the patronage of the Priory, and in 1299 he and William Danvers were patrons. Seven years later William Danvers presented Robert Danvers to his mediety of the rectory of Little Marlow, and in the year 1305 took a part in the election of a prioress in conjunction with the Countess of Gloucester and Hertford. In the years 1291 and 1296 William Danvers presented to the rectory of Little Marlow, while Sir Milo de Bello Campo (Beauchamp) presented in the years 1299, 1300, and 1330. In the year 1328 William Danvers presented to his mediety on the decease of Robert Danvers; and after the year 1330 the presentation to Little Marlow Rectory passed out of the hands of the families of Danvers and Beauchamp. Sir John Stonor presented in the year 1341, and the presentation to the church was subsequently, and until the time of the dissolution, in the hands of the prioress of Little Marlow. Somewhat earlier, *circa* 1330, the Danvers family also lost the right of presentation to Dorney Rectory. In the year 1306 John de la Bere and others presented, and shortly after the right of presentation fell into the hands of Burnham Abbey.

The earliest members of the Danvers family whom we find settled in Buckinghamshire are the brothers Ralph and Roger de Alvers of Dorney, Hitcham, Marlow, and Soulsbury, sons, so we are told by Vincent and other genealogists, of Roland Danvers, the companion of the Conqueror. These brothers we have identified (Chapter II.) with the Ralph and Roger whom we find in Domesday Book holding as sub-tenants in the places mentioned. The family had also at a very early period lands in Berkshire, which had been brought into it as dowry with the Saxon heiress whom one of its members wedded.

Sir Ralph left two sons, Roland and Geoffrey, the latter the progenitor of the Danvers of Oxfordshire. Roland, the elder son, we identify with the Roland de Aluers of the Liber Niger Roll of the year 1165. In Vincent's pedigree the shield of this Sir Roland de Alvers is figured, gules a chevron or between three mullets or; and many antiquaries would assert that Roland was the earliest member of the family to bear armorial insignia upon his shield, such insignia, as they would affirm, not having come into use till the middle of the twelfth century.

Sir Roland was, according to Vincent, followed by his son, Sir Ralph, of Little Marlow; and this may be the Rad. de Aluers who, with his son Roger, is among the witnesses to a charter given by William de Bray to the Templars (Register of Preceptory of Sandford, Oxon, fol. 26*b*, Bodleian Library). The charter is not dated, but the old way of spelling the name and the place of the charter in the register point to a period at least as early as the latter half of the twelfth century.*

This Sir Ralph of Little Marlow left two sons, who divided the inheritance. The elder, Roland, became of Little Marlow, Bucks, and the younger, Ralph of Wynterbourne, Berks. This last-mentioned Roland is no doubt the Roland de Aluers of the Scutage Roll of the year 1186, which may be found in the 'Liber Niger.' He is also in all probability the Ruel de Alvers, son and heir of Radulphus de Alvers, who appears in an early charter, given by the latter to the Templars for the good of the soul of his wife Royes, lately buried at Bicester. The charter* concerns a virgate of land in Cowley, Oxford, and amongst the witnesses are, besides Roland, the son and heir, a Thomas de Alvers, Peter and Robert de Sandford, Reginald de Huggenden, Bernard de Burnham, Robert Taylard, and Galfridus, son of Selfred. This Roland also is no doubt the Ruel de Anuers whose name we find in the ancient register of Oseney Abbey, in a deed which was an agreement, made in the year 1183 or 1184, between certain knights who are named therein. Amongst them are Thomas de Druval, whose name is found as a witness in some of the deeds in the Thame Abbey register, Ruel de Anuers, Godfrey de Bella Aqua, and Robert de Witefeld, Vic. (Sheriff) Oxon. This signature gives us the date of the deed, as Robert de Witefeld was Sheriff of Oxon 29 and 30 Henry II. Roland's name also appears in the Pipe Roll of Oxon and Berks of 27 Henry II. (1180).† He died in the year 1196, as in the Pipe Roll of Bucks and Beds of that year we find Jordan de Valoines and Robert, his son, paying to have the custody of Roland's children and their inheritance.[*] This Roland was probably the husband of Agnes Danvers, first patroness and foundress of Little Marlow Priory. Roland was followed by his son Ralph, whom we find in Oxon Pipe Roll of 8 Henry III.,[†] and in a Scutage Roll of the year 1228 holding two fiefs of the honor of Wallingford; and this is no doubt the Sir Ralph Danvers who, in the year 1244, presented to Dorney Rectory. It may have been the same Sir Ralph who presented to Dorney in the year 1265; but we incline to think this Ralph was followed by another Ralph, the Ralph of a Buckinghamshire fine,[‡] dated 1281, in which Ralph, son of Ralph Danvers, sells land in Little Marlow to Ada Averyl, and that this younger Ralph was the father (possibly the brother) of the William Danvers who was undoubtedly the representative of the family in Dorney and Little Marlow in the latter part of the thirteenth century. But if there were two Ralphs in succession, it was the elder one who was the father of Alice, wife of Richard Neirunt—the Ralph who appears in the 'Testa de Nevill' in a document of the year 1234.[§] He also is the Ralph of a charter, a copy of which is preserved in a Queen's College, Oxon, MS. (Coxe, 159), and runs as follows: 'Ricardus Neyraint salut: Sciatis quod ego assensu Alicia uxoris et Milonis heredi mei concess: Radulpho filio meo et heredis suis totam terram meam de Crowlton quod Radulph de Auvers dedit mihi in maritag. cum Alicia filia sua.' Richard Neirunt was son-in-law of Ralph Danvers; and as we learn, from the Bishops' Institutions, that Richard was dead in the year 1237, Ralph Danvers cannot have been born later than the year 1190. Another charter given by the younger Ralph is preserved in a manuscript[‖] in the British Museum, in which Ralph, son of Ralph Danvers, confirms to Richard, son of Walter, son of Robert de Chipenham, a messuage and three acres of land and an acre of meadow, which Edmund le Velle, of Dorney, formerly held of him, Richard rendering to him a pair of white kid gloves at Easter, or a gift, or a penny at his will, in place of all service. The seal has an impression of a man on horseback, with a hawk on his fist.

---

* Register of Sandford Preceptory (Bodleian MS.), folio 15*b*.

† Dodsworth MS., Bodleian, vol. xv., pp. 69*b*, 109*b*.

---

[*] Dodsworth MS., Bodleian, vol. xii., pp. 92, 168.

[†] *Ibid.*, vol. xv., pp. 69*b*, 109*b*.

[‡] 55 Henry III., No. 5.

[§] See also Scutage Roll, in Harleian MSS. No. 313, of 19 Henry III., Rad. Danvers half a fief in Dorney, Milo Neyrunt half a fief in Merston, Henry Danvers part of fief in Wigham.

[‖] Additional MSS., No. 5527, folio 75*b*.

Ralph was followed in Dorney and Marlow, about the year 1270, by William Danvers, whom we find in the year 1299 one of the patrons of Little Marlow Priory. It would appear that about the year 1274 he ought to have presented on a vacancy occurring in the rectory of Dorney. This he had failed to do, and is called to account by his neighbour, the Prioress of Little Marlow,* who petitions the King that she may be allowed to present a fit person to the rectory of Dorney, William Danvers having failed to do so.

About the same time William Danvers has a suit against Alan Botiller concerning lands in Marlow, and in the year 1272 he is at law with the Abbot of Medmenham.† Again, about the year 1275, we have him in Court, not altogether this time on his own account, but as a witness called by Alice Danvers, late widow of Ralph Danvers, and probably the mother of William Danvers,‡ and this suit is also with the prioress. Other suits in which William was engaged are on record in the De Banco Rolls of the period. In the year 1296 he presented a Robert Danvers to the rectory of Dorney, and William Danvers of Little Marlow appears in a Bucks Lay Subsidy Roll of 31 Edward I.§

In the year 1322 (Parliamentary Writs) William Danvers was a King's assessor in the county of Buckinghamshire, and this may possibly have been William Danvers, son of Ralph, then an old man. But it is more likely that it was his son, another William, whom we find in the Book of Aids of Edward III. (1347) holding with Milo de Bellocampo (Beauchamp) lands *in capite* in Little Marlow, which their ancestors formerly held '*per inquis.*'

After this second William we have been unable to trace, with any certainty, the descent of the family in Little Marlow, while in the Close Roll of 1372 (46 Edward III., M. 16) we find Hugo Danvers, son of William, remitting all his rights in Marlow to John Attchul. Then, in 1391 (Patent Roll, 15 Richard II., M. 22), we find John Danvers, of Staunton,* Derby, releasing to Thomas Chebrey and others the manor of Little Marlowe, a manor which the family had held for upwards of four hundred years. In all probability both Hugo and John were the sons of William Danvers of the Book of Aids of 1347, and with them the family disappeared from Buckinghamshire.†

---

* De Banco Roll, No. 12, 3 Edward I.

† De Banco Roll, No. 7, of 2 and 3 Edward I., M. 99, d. Patent Roll of 1 Edward I., M. 10, d, 32.

‡ De Banco Roll, No. 8 of Edward I.

§ Also in Lay Subsidy Roll, Divers Counties $\frac{239}{247}$, of 28 Edward I.

* Subsidy Roll, 10 Henry VI. (1431), William Danvers holds land in soccage, in Staunton, Derby, No. 5, $\frac{91}{59}$, M. 2. Dod's MSS., 37 and 38, fol. 260, 4 Henry IV. (1402), manor of Galton, in Derby, belongs to Edward Danvers.

† We have already seen that Alicia, daughter of Ralph Danvers of Dorney, married Richard Neremit. The name is spelt in many different ways, and sometimes in two or three ways in as many lines of a manuscript: Neremit, Nernit, Neirunt, Neyruit, Nairemit are only a few variations of it. The name illustrates the remark in the introduction to the printed folio volumes of Parliamentary writs, that 'in combinations of letters formed by parallel strokes, such as *m*, *n*, *u*, *i*, the eye is unable to develop the elements of which the group is composed; a name may be Hauvil, or Hanvil, or Hannil, or Haunil, or Hamul.' The name Neiremet appears in that form, and as Nairmere in copies of the Battle Abbey Roll. Its most ancient form was de Nemore, from *nemus*, a wood, or grove. The name was changed by early English Latinists into 'de Bosco' (*boscus*, a wood), and shortened into Bosc. Probably descendants of the family are amongst us under the name of Wood.

The earliest authentic notice of the family which we find is in 1162 (Pipe Roll of 9 Henry II.), when we have, in Bucks, the name spelt in two different ways—Milo Nerenuit and Neremit. In the Pipe Roll of 1164 we find the same name. Then, in 1166, we have in the 'Liber Niger,' holding a fief in Bucks, Richard Neirenuit. In the year 1200, Liber Rubeus, we have Rad. de Auvers and Milo Neremit together. Rotul. de finibus, Simon Neruit holding a fief in Bucks. In the year 1237[1] we have the Bishop of Carlisle in charge of the lands and heirs of Richard Neyrunt, and this is the Richard who gives the charter already noticed, in which he mentions his wife Alice, daughter of Ralph Danvers, and their heir Milo. Next, in the year 1249,[1] we have this Milo presenting to his mediety of the rectory of Little Marlow, and we find him also mentioned in a Scutage Roll of 19 Henry III., holding[2] half a fief in Bucks. Milo had a daughter Isabel,[3] who married (Reginald) de Bello Campo, whose son, Milo de Bello Campo,[1]

---

[1] Institutions of Bishop of Lincoln.

[2] Testa de Nevill, and Harleian MS., No. 313.

[3] Vincent's pedigree of Neirunt in College of Arms; Vincent 56, No. 132.

In the last year of Edward III.,* William Danvers, late Esquire of the King's Chamber, receives £10 in part payment of £43, due to him in the King's wardrobe, as well for his wages in the war, as for robes, restocking his horse, and his passage back. And in the Pipe Rolls of Berks for 1 and 3 Richard II. (1377 and 1379) appear payments from William Danvers, Custodian of the Town and Castle of Porchester. In all probability these entries refer to the same individual, and that it was this William whose daughter Janet married a John Cleet, and became, as we shall see, mother of the Alice Cleet who married Edmond Danvers, of the Berkshire family.

The Berkshire Branch of the Family.—We learn from the 'Liber Niger' that in the year 1165 Ruel de Alvers held two fiefs in Berkshire of the honor of Wallingford, and that the same fiefs were held by him, or by a successor having the same name, in the year 1187. These fiefs the family held from the Norman conquerors of the land, but they also held lands in Woghfeld in the same county, which they inherited from their Saxon ancestress, the daughter of Torold,† the son of Geoffrey. The manor of Woghfeld remained with them till the year 1320, when Thomas Danvers sold it to Roger Mortimer.‡

Of Torold, the son of Geoffrey, we can learn nothing further than that his daughter married one of the early members of the Danvers family, carrying to him as dowry Woghfeld manor. No doubt he was a Saxon of the Saxons, dwelling in the heart of what was once the kingdom of Wessex, and on lands which his forefathers won from the Britons in the sixth century. Not far from the ancestral home was fought, in 870, the great battle of Ashdown, in which Alfred with his Saxons attacked and defeated the Danes. The site of the battle has

---

we find presenting to the Neyrunt mediety of the rectory of Little Marlow in the year 1299. In the year 1316 we find in the Parliamentary Writs Milo de Bello Campo is one of the lords of Dorney and Hitcham, holding, no doubt, the lands which were once those of the Danvers family.

---

* Devon's 'Issues of the Exchequer,' p. 204.

† 'Abbrevat. Placitorum,' p. 75.

‡ Release in the original Norman-French in Additional MS. 6041, folio 14.

not been determined, but a tradition places it on Blewbury Hill, and holds that where, beneath the hill, the ancient church of Aston-Torold now stands, Alfred's elder brother, Æthelred, remained in prayer while the battle raged. Aston-Upthorpe, which is practically one village with Aston-Torold, once belonged to the family of Danvers, and was held by them early in the thirteenth century; possibly they obtained it from their Saxon ancestress. That her forefathers fought in the great battle there can be little doubt; *nidering* would have been the thegn who remained at home when the King was warring close at hand for the life of the kingdom. And if her father, two centuries later, was a Berkshire thegn, he must have been present at an even more eventful battle, that of Senlac.

Sir Ralph Danvers, of Little Marlow and Dorney, whom we distinguished as the father of Roland and Ralph, was the last of the family who held the Buckinghamshire and Berkshire estates conjointly. After his time the family tree divides itself into two branches, and we have now to consider that of Berkshire, the founder of which, following Vincent's table of descent, was 'Sir Raufe, of Wynterbourne.'

In the year 1201* Ralph de Auvers paid thirty marks to have his lands in Berkshire, of the honor of Wallingford, a payment for which the Bishop of Norwich is in some way responsible.† And in the same year, 1201, we find Ralph paying five marks for transport—possibly this was to Ireland, for in the year 1210 we find Ralph in Dublin, or he may have gone to Ireland in 1210 with his friend John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich. For this year King John, having wrung from the Jews the cost of an expedition, sailed for Ireland, taking with him, as his principal civil adviser, his favourite, Bishop John de Grey. The Bishop remained in Ireland as Viceroy till the year 1214, and with him probably Ralph Danvers, who we suspect died fighting for the English Pale. He was in Dublin in the year 1210, when we find him in the 'Rotul. de Prestito' receiving payment from the King's treasury there.‡ Not long after Ralph died, and in the year 1212 we find William de

* Rotul. Cancellar, vol. i., p. 266; and Rotul. de Oblat. et Finibus, p. 467.

† *Ibid.*

‡ Rotul. de Prestito, Hardy's edition.

Cornhull,* Archdeacon of Huntingdon, paying to the King £100, a large sum of money in those days, to have the custody of the lands and heirs of Rad. de Auvers, and the right of marriage of his wife and children and this 'salvo rationabile testamento predicti Radulphi.'

Ralph Danvers was succeeded by his son Robert, concerning whom we find many notices in the records of his time. In or before the year 1224 he married Muriel, daughter of Alan de Dunstanville. Alan had three sons, Walter, Alan, and Geoffrey, and four daughters, Muriel who married Robert de Auvers or Daunvers, Emma who married Thomas Englefield, Cecilia married to William Basset, and Alice married to De Baseville. The members of his wife's family went to law with Robert Danvers regarding pannage which he claimed in certain woods that were part of the estate of Muriel's father, and also regarding lands in Shiplake which Robert claimed as belonging to his wife's dowry, but the Court decided that Muriel ought to have her portion according to her marriage settlement. The dates of these and other notices† of Robert Danvers extend from the year 1224 to the year 1246, and from these we gather that Robert Danvers was lord of several manors in Berkshire, including those of Wynterbourne, Chilton, Aston-Upthorp and Woghfeld, and that he had lands in Telrugg and Colrigg in the same county, and in Shiplake in Oxon.

Robert Danvers was a magistrate and coroner of the county of Berkshire—the latter, at the period, an office of considerable dignity and importance. By the statute of Westminster the coroner was to be a knight of 100s. rent; and 'he ought to be the wisest and discreetest knight that best would and might attend upon such an office.'

---

* Rotul. de Oblat. et Finibus, p. 467. In the Roll the entry is under Berks and the honor of Wallingford, but Ralph appears to have held possessions in Bucks also, for in the Rotul. Lit. Claus, 351, of the year 1218, the custodian of the honor of Wallingford is to give charge of the lands which were those of Rad. de Auners in Merlawe and Dorney to Petro de Bosco (de Nemore, Neremit).

† Excerpt. Rotul. Finium, vol. i.; Coram Rege Rolls of Henry III. in Harrison's notes in Record Office, vols. i. and xxviii.; Plea Rolls of 27 Henry III., Hilary term, M. 4 dors.; Pedes Finium, Berks, 25 Henry III.; Rye's Norfolk feet of fines, 24 Henry III.; Close Rolls, 10 Henry III., m. 13 dors.; 22 Henry III., m. 23 dors., m. 21 dors., m. 14 dors.; 29 Henry III. and 30 Henry III.; Pipe Roll, 9 Henry III., Nov. Oblat. See also Miss Emily J. Climenson's lately published 'History of Shiplake.'

In the year 1246 the Close Roll contains an order to the High Sheriff of Berkshire to elect a coroner in the place of Robert Danvers. The cause of the vacancy is not mentioned, but it was no doubt owing to Robert's death, for we find no subsequent mention of him in the records.

Vincent and other genealogists tell us that Robert was followed by Thomas Danvers, who enjoyed the same estates as the Robert just mentioned, viz., Woghfield, Wynterbourne, Chilton, and Aston-Upthorp; but he must, we apprehend, have been grandson or grandnephew of Robert, not son, for while Thomas died in the year 1323, Robert was married in or before the year 1224; moreover, we find no mention of Thomas in the records till the year 1272, and he can hardly have been born before the year 1250. The mistake has, we believe, arisen owing to Thomas's father bearing the same name as his grandfather—another Robert Danvers, but an individual less concerned than his father in the business of the county, and consequently little mentioned in the records of the period. Yet we think he may be found there, and may be identified with a certain Robert Danvers,* the husband of Amicia, who in the year 1253 is concerned in a friendly suit regarding lands in Litelcote, which appear to have formed part of Amicia's dowry. He, too, is probably the man of the name who appears in the Pipe Roll of 56 Henry III. (1271) as holding lands in the Hundred of Windsor, and who again in the Close Roll of 1268 (43 Henry III., M. 14 d.) is concerned in a dispute at Stratford-Mortimer,† a place which is very near Woghfield.

The next member of the Berkshire family is Sir Thomas Danvers, who died in the year 1323. The first notice of him which we have been able to find is in the Berkshire Pipe Roll of 1 Edward I. (1272), in which his name appears twice.

---

* Bucks Fine of 38 Henry III.

† Dodsworth MS. 35, fol. 113*b*. Robert Danvers, *temp.* Henry III., has son and heir Thomas, and other four children, Michael, Roger, Isabel and Agnes, who died *s.p.* The same MS. gives a Robert Danvers as the father of the William Danvers who married Emma Chevauchesul, and as its authority charters of Eynesham Abbey; this by the way (see. p 41).

He was probably born about the year 1250, and as he died in 1323, he can scarcely be assumed to be the son of Robert and Muriel who were married before the year 1224; but he held the same manors as did Robert, those of Wokefield, Winterbourne, Aston, and Chilton, and may have inherited them from him either as his grandson or grandnephew.

Sir Thomas was a knight, and a favoured knight, of Edward I.; his name with his arms—gules, a chevron or between three mullets or—is found in a list of king's knights which is copied into Harleian MS. 6589: 'All these knights served in the tyme of King Edward 1st, and were with him in all his warres in Scotland and elsewhere against Robert le Bruis, usurper.' Another chronicle places him amongst those who were with the King 'ubique.' And the King found in Thomas not merely a valiant knight, but a man also after his own heart, wise in council and resolute in action, one who might be trusted to second him in his determination to establish law and order throughout the realm. Therefore, in the year 1285, Edward raised Thomas Danvers, though but a country gentleman, to the office and dignity of Sheriff of the two counties of Berkshire and Oxford, an office which Thomas Danvers held during four successive years.* The office of Sheriff was at the period one of great importance. 'In those times (1263) the Sheriffs of counties were usually men of high rank and great power in the realm. To them the King frequently committed, together with the counties, his castles and manors within their bailiwick. They provided the castles with ammunition and other necessaries; they stocked and improved the manors; the King, in fine, generally trusted them with the collection of his revenues and various other powers and jurisdictions' (Madox's 'History of the Exchequer,' p. 634). Each year the Sheriffs made up the accounts of their counties, and these are known as the 'Pipe Rolls,' which 'are perhaps, all things considered, the most interesting series of records extant. For each year there is a great brown roll, broad, long and unwieldy, containing as a general rule as many skins as counties.' 'They comprise yearly accounts of all the taxes collected in the different counties of England of fines, reliefs, escuages, etc., paid by the tenants in capite, whereby their descents may be easily traced, of sums paid to the King for having justice, or for liberty to commence suits at law.'* The series from the time of Henry II. is almost perfect.

---

* Deputy Keeper of Records, 31st report, list of sheriffs.

After Thomas gave up the shrievalty, in 1289, we have a record of him in a Bucks Fine of 17 Edward I. which connects him with Chilton, and in 1297, if not earlier, he is again in military service. In the Parliamentary Writs,† Thomas Danvers ('or de Auvers, or Anuers, or Auners, or Daunvers'), as holding lands and rents of £20 yearly and upwards, is summoned to perform military service with horses and arms beyond the sea; to muster at London on July 7. The King had determined to carry an army to the relief of his allies in Flanders, and summoned the whole military force of the kingdom to meet him at London on July 7, and in August he set sail for Flanders; but the expedition was a failure, and not long after his return the King went to Scotland to avenge himself and his kingdom on the victorious Wallace. We have no record of the presence of Thomas at the battle of Falkirk, but in the year 1300 he is returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset as one of those holding land of £40 yearly and upwards who are to perform service against the Scots, to muster at Carlisle; and in 1301 he is again summoned (Parliamentary Writs) to muster at Berwick-on-Tweed.

In the year 1306 Thomas is at home, and is a King's Assessor in Berkshire; and in 1307, the first year of the reign of Edward II., is again Sheriff of Berks and Oxon, and is so in the fourth, fifth and sixth years of the new King's reign. In the Rotul. Originalia of 5 Edward II. (1311) he is mentioned as custodian of Oxford Castle (see also Close Roll, 5 Edward II.). Doubtless he was present at the King's coronation, in the preparations for which he had helped, for we find in Devon's 'Exchequer Issues' a record of an indenture between the clerk of the works and Thomas Danvers, late Sheriff of Oxford, regarding the carriage of timber and planks from Bustlesham (Bisham) to Westminster for the King's palace against the coronation, and for cloth purchased at Abingdon to cover the said palace. We may note that Thomas's colleagues during his shrievalties were Richard Damory (whose brother, Roger, drew Edmund, the son of Thomas, into rebellion) and Phillip de la Beche, whose granddaughter married Thomas's grandson, Robert.

---

* 'Records and Record Searching,' by W. Rye. London, 1888.

† Parl. Writs, vol. i., p. 563.

In the year 1313 Thomas Danvers and his wife appear in a Berkshire Fine regarding his lands in Oxenwode and Forstbury, and in 1316 he appears in 'the nomina Villarum' as lord of the manor of Aston-Upthorp, while in the same record his son, Edmund, is lord of Chilton. In the same year Thomas is mentioned in the Parliamentary Writs as lord of Winterbourne, Aston and Upthorp in Berks, and of Stanbridge and Puttelworth in Hants (see also Lay Subsidy, Berks, *temp.* Edward I., $\frac{73}{5}$). In the year 1320, as we learn from two of the charters which are included in the register of Roger Mortimer (Harleian MS. 7, fol. 60*b*, and Additional MS. 6041, fol. 14), Thomas Danvers sold to him the manor of Woghfeld, and lands and tenements in Stratfield Mortimer, Stratfeld Say, Burghfeld, Schevyngfeld, and Lek-Hampstead Banastre. In 1322, as we learn from the Parliamentary Writs,* Thomas pleads that he is blind and ill and unfit for military service, and in the following year he died.

Those who know the Berkshire Downs and the pleasant villages—such as Aston, Chilton, and Winterbourne—which nestle in their hollows, will agree that the lines of Thomas Danvers fell to him in pleasant places; and the old knight as he rested in his manor house at Winterbourne might solace himself with the memory of the glorious days in years long past, when in many a hard-fought field he rode near the greatest King that since the Conquest England had known, and won from him distinction and reward.

Thomas Danvers died in the year 1323, leaving three sons,

* Thomas Danvers is mentioned in three or four MSS. as holding lands in Chester, and in a list of knights, *temp.* Edward II., given in Dodsworth MS. 35, p. 102*b*, he appears as one of those of the county of Chester. His arms, as there given, are gules a chevron and three rowels or. Close Roll of 9 Edward II., Membrane 7, Thomas Daunvers, knight, without the King's leave, has sold to William de Beche forty acres of land in Beaumaris, N.W.

Edmund, Richard, and William, and, in order to understand their position, it is necessary to recall very briefly some of the events of the preceding years in England. In the year 1321 the King's favourites, the Despensers, had regained their power, while the Marchers, amongst whom the chief was Roger Mortimer, in alliance with the Earls of Hereford and Lancaster and other nobles, had risen against the King. The King, by interposing his forces between those of the Marchers and Lancaster, had obliged Mortimer with many of his companions to surrender, and he then, with the Despensers, marched northwards in pursuit of Lancaster. At Borough Bridge Lancaster was defeated, and with many barons and knights surrendered to the King. Amongst these were Roger d'Amauri, or Damory, of the great Oxfordshire family of that name, and Edmund Danvers.

One hundred knights and fourteen bannerets were made prisoners, about half a dozen fled beyond the seas; all the captured bannerets and fourteen knights were executed along with their leader Lancaster. Of the rest, some compounded for their estates, some gave security, and some were discharged 'for charity and love of God.' Roger Mortimer was imprisoned, but after two or three years managed to escape to France; Edmund Danvers, probably because of his father's loyalty and services to the Crown, was amongst those who were pardoned. In the Parliamentary Writs for 1321, Edmund Danvers, one of the followers of Roger D'Amory, obtains a pardon, which, however, was afterwards revoked, and the revocation originated in this way. The elder Despenser was made Earl of Winchester, and obtained, as a part of the spoil of the defeated nobles, the manor of Dadington. Whereupon Edmund Danvers with many others—as he is mentioned by name (Parliamentary Writ, 1322) he was most likely the leader of the band—forcibly entered the manor, and for this offence a Special Commission was appointed to try him, at the suit of Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, and the King. Again Edmund escaped with his life, but his lands were confiscated, and he himself was either imprisoned or banished. And so it happened that Edmund Danvers was absent at the time of his father's death, and that he was not mentioned in the disposition of the estates, his brothers, Richard and William, appearing as their father's heirs.

When Thomas Danvers died, his powerful neighbour, Roger Mortimer, was a prisoner in the Tower, and his estates had been forfeited to the Crown; and in consequence of this we find two petitions to Parliament (Record Office, Nos. 2467 and 2470) from Richard and William Danvers regarding payment due to them for the manor of Woghfield, which Roger Mortimer bought from their father, which payment Robert de Hungerford, the Guardian of Forfeitures, would not suffer them to obtain. They therefore pray for a remedy; and in answer to their petitions, an 'Inquis. ad quod damnum' (17 Edward II., No. 125) was taken before William de Hardene and Ralph de Bereford, in the presence of Robert de Hungerford, as to whether Roger de Mortuo Mari (Mortimer), in payment for the manor of Woghfield, had granted to William, the son of Thomas Danvers, 100s. yearly rent from the lands and rents which belonged to Roger in Newbury. The jury say that Roger Mortimer did make this grant, and that the lands from which the rents would come are held by service from the Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk; and they say that the aforesaid William ought to have the rent from the date of making the agreement—namely, March 24, 15 Edward II. (1321). There is a similar inquisition and finding in the case of Richard Danvers. That the finding of the jury was acted on by the Crown appears from the Rotul. Originalia, in which is an entry of 9 Edward III. (1335) to the effect that Roger Mortimer's estates having been forfeited, and his heir being a minor, William Danvers is to keep custody of the lands in Newbury.

William Danvers married Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Lovel, and widow of Thomas de Borhunte, of the Hampshire family of that name. The estates of the de Borhuntes were in the neighbourhood of those of the Danvers family at Stanbridge and Puttelworth, and were, like them, held on condition of aiding in the defence of Porchester Castle in time of war. Margaret's father, John Lovel, was Master of the Royal Buckhounds, and held in right of his office the manor of Little Weldon, in Northampton. This office and manor Margaret carried to both her husbands. By her first husband she had one son, John de Borhunte, who married Mary de Roches, and died in the year 1359, when his widow married Sir Bernard Brocas. Professor Burrows, in his 'History of the Brocas Family,' tells at length the story of the acquirement by Sir Bernard of the Mastership of the Buckhounds, and two fines, which we happened to light on, complement his narrative. William Danvers survived his wife, Margaret Lovel, and himself died childless in the year 1361, when the Hunter's manor and office devolved on Mary, the widow of Sir John de Borhunte, now married to Sir Bernard Brocas, with reversion to the Lovel family on her death. Now, Sir Bernard wished to keep the office and manor for himself and his heirs, and he therefore proceeded to buy the reversion from a certain Maude Lovel, and this is the object of the fine, Northampton, No. 28, of 40 Edward III. The suit, heard at Westminster, was between Sir Bernard Brocas, Chevalier, and Maude Lovel, concerning the manor of Little Weldon and the bailiwick of the Mastership of the Buckhounds, which Sir Bernard and his wife Mary hold for the latter's life. Maude in court recognises the right of Sir Bernard and Maria to the manor and bailiwick, and concedes them. Further, as after the death of Mary they would revert to the heirs of Maude, she by this agreement settles them to the heirs of Sir Bernard, to hold of the King by the service proper to the manor, and for herself and heirs warrants to Sir Bernard the manor and bailiwick, and for this concession she receives from Sir Bernard Brocas 200 silver marks.

The other fine is an earlier one (Northampton, 15 Edward III., book 301-350), and is a good example of one of the legal methods of the day. The suit is heard at Westminster, and is between William Danvers and his wife Margaret, and Richard Danvers. William and Margaret recognise in court the right of Richard to the manor of Little Weldon and the Mastership of the Buckhounds; and then by present agreement Richard concedes the manor and office to William and Margaret for life, and on their death, should they have no children, to John de Borhunte, Margaret's son, and to his wife Maria, with reversion should they have no children to the right heirs of Margaret. In the year 1361 William Danvers died, and his post-mortem inquisition (No. 66, 35 Edward III., part i.) states it was taken at Little Weldon, and that William died seised of the manor, which he has as the gift of Richard Danvers. Really, he held the manor *jure uxoris;* but under the fine just quoted he held it as the gift of his brother, and had, which was the object of the process, received in open court a settlement of the estate and its reversion. William's inquisition* goes on to state that he and his wife left of their own no children, and that John, the son of Margaret, died leaving no child, and that his widow had married Sir Bernard Brocas. There the jury left the matter; they do not—probably because they were unable—declare who is the heir.

Richard Danvers outlived his elder brother, and also his eldest brother Edmund and Edmund's son and heir, Robert, so that Edmund Danvers, son of Robert, son of Edmund, brother of Richard, was Richard's heir (Inquis. P.M., No. 56, 36 Edward III.), and was at the time aged sixteen years and more. Edmund, though Richard's heir, did not receive the landed property of the family in Hampshire, for the day before Richard's death he enfeoffed Sir John de Scures, Roger de Englefield and others, of his lands in Borhunte and Southwick on condition that they should appropriate the lands on his death to the use of the prior and convent of Southwick. Some six years after Richard's death, on the intercession of William of Wykeham, who was specially interested in the Priory Church as the place of burial of his parents, the King conceded the estate to the convent (Abbrevat. Rotul. Original., vol. ii., p. 304).

Edmund Danvers we left in banishment or in prison, but he was one of the many nobles and gentlemen who were amnestied on the accession of Edward III., and was restored to his estates in Winterbourne, Chilton, Aston and Leckhampsted (Rolls of Parliament and Nomina Villarum), and became one of the knights of the shire in the second, third and fourth Parliaments of the reign. Edmund was twice married, first to Alicia (Berks Fine of 2 Edward III.), and secondly to Isabel, widow of Sir John de Swanland, who survived him (Inquis. P.M. of Isabel, No. 13 of 38 Edward III.). By his first wife Edmund had two sons, Robert and Edmund. In the Hustings Rolls of the City of London are several notices of Edmund Danvers of Wynterbourne, Berks, and his wife Isabel, widow of Sir John de Swanlande, of London, draper (Rolls of A.D. 1351 and of 1353 and 1358).

---

* Close Roll of 22 and 27 Edward III., William Danvers sells to Henry de Sanson lands and tenements in Holbenham juxta Hampsted-Marshall, Berks, and to the King the manor thereof.

Chilton was no doubt Edmund's home in the early years of his married life. 'Lord of Chilton' he is called in the Parliamentary Writ of 1316. Chilton Danvers the village is called in the fine which mentions Edmund and his wife Alicia. The village is about four miles west from Aston-Torold, and is reached thence by a pleasant walk across the Berkshire Downs. Quite suddenly one passes from the almost treeless, though cultivated plain into the circular hollow in which nestles the village, surrounded not long ago by a belt of trees, of which only some remain. In the hollow, the picturesque cottages built of bricks, now of the finest and richest red colour, are scattered irregularly amongst gardens and orchards, dominated by the ancient village church. The church, though small, is very interesting, and has been reverently restored, all the ancient parts of the fabric being, where possible, left untouched. Thus the open roof shows the massive oak beams, which are no doubt coeval with the oldest part of the fabric, and therefore of the Early English or Transition period. The manor house of Edmund Danvers has of course long since disappeared, but the present manor house no doubt marks its site.

Edmund died before his brother Richard; he left two sons, Robert and Edward, of whom Robert, the eldest, succeeded him. Robert married Alice, one of the sisters and heiresses of John De la Beche of Aldworth. The sisters and brother were the children of Sir John and Isabella De la Beche. John, son of John, died in 1340 (Inquis. P.M., No. 17 of 13 Edward III., and Berkshire fine of 8 Edward III.*), and the jury say that Joan whom Andrew de Sakevill took to wife is aged twenty-eight years, and Isabella whom William Fitz Elys took to wife is aged twenty-four years, and Alice whom Robert Danvers took to wife is aged twenty-two years, and that they are the sisters and heirs of John, lately deceased. The full-sized recumbent effigy of this John De la Beche is one of the grand series of monuments which even in their present mutilated condition adorn Aldworth church. 'Every one of them,' writes the Vicar of Aldworth, 'a poem in stone, exhibits with great artistic skill characteristic personal distinctions. They illustrate to a remarkable extent the costume and armour of the period'* (*circa* 1315-1346). Robert Danvers died September 25, 1361. We learn from his post-mortem inquisition (No. 57, part i., 36 Edward III.) that he had lands in Winterbourne, Aston, Chilton, Chebreye, Oxenwode and Compton. His heir was his son Edmund, aged sixteen years and more.

---

* Other fines relating to members of the family are Berks, No. 6 of 14 Edward III., and Northampton, No. 63 of 26 Edward III.

Edmund Danvers, son of Robert, was born in the year 1345, and in March, 1366, when he would come of age, he left for foreign parts, after enfeoffing of his lands his uncle, Edward Danvers, his father's brother.† Not improbably he went to join the Black Prince in Aquitaine.

It would seem that shortly after his departure his uncle died, and then, either in consequence, or because a rumour of his death had reached England, a formal inquisition regarding his estates was held at Abingdon (No. 21 of 41 Edward III.). The jury had little or no information before them, and say that they do not know when Edmund died, or who was his heir. However, Edmund returned and died at home, when an inquisition was duly held (No. 18 of 5 Richard II.), and his heir is his son William, aged at the time fourteen. Edmund must have married when about twenty-one years of age; his wife was Alice, daughter of John, son of Richard Cleet, and Alice Danvers,‡ daughter or widow of a William

---

* 'Fourteenth Century Monuments in Aldworth Church.' Reading, *Berks Chronicle* Office, 1883.

† Notice of this Edward Danvers and his wife Isabel, daughter and heiress of Thomas Spicer of Abingdon, may be found in the Hustings Roll of the City of London, of the year 1353.

‡ Berks (Oxon?) Fine of 14 Edward III., Mag. Coll., Staneswyk 6. Close Roll, 40 Edward III., M. 24, Edmund Danvers, son and heir of

Danvers (cf. Clarke's 'Hundred of Wanting,' p. 87). With his wife Edmund Danvers obtained the manor and advowson of Wyke or Staneswyk (Inquisition of Joan Danvers, 46 of 37 Henry VI.), which descended to his son William, and was devised by William's wife, Joan, to Magdalen College, Oxford. Hence it happens that amongst the muniments of that college are many records of the Berkshire branch of the Danvers family. Edmund Danvers left three sons, William, his heir, Thomas and Edmund. After his death his widow married Sir Richard Adderbury (Clarke's 'Wanting') of Donnington Castle, near Newbury. There probably Alice's sons were brought up, and in the reign of Henry V. (1413-1422) we find Thomas Danvers giving a charter, dated at Donnington Castle, in which he calls himself Thomas Danvers, son of Edmund and brother of William, son and heir of Edmund, and releases to John Hyde his rights in lands at Denchworth, which belonged to John Cleet, father of the Lady Alice, his mother.

We have said that Edmund Danvers and his wife Alice, besides their sons William and Thomas, had a son Edmund. This, however, is only an inference from two documents of the period; one of these (Staneswyke, 41, Magdalen College) is a power of attorney, dated 1394, by which Edmund Danvers and Henry Ingepenne empower Philip Shipiere to give service to William Danvers and Joan his wife of the lands in Berks and Wilts, which they received as a gift from them. The other document is a fine ('Divers Counties,' of 3 Henry IV.), 1402, which mentions Edmund Danvers and his heiress, Margaret, wife of Evesham of Eton.

William, the eldest son, and heir, of Edmund Danvers, was born in the year 1367, in the latter part of the reign of Edward III., lived through the reigns of Richard II., Henry IV., and Henry V., and died in the seventeenth year of the reign of Henry VI. We find him mentioned in the year 1382 (Inquis. of Edward De la Beche, 5 Richard II.) as son of

---

Robert Danvers of Wynterborne, releases his rights in the manor of Hakenorton and advowson of the chapel which came to him on the death of his uncle, Edmund de la Beche, Archdeacon of Berks.

Edmund Danvers, son of Alice, and one of the heirs of Edward De la Beche. The inscription on his monument stated that he was sub-treasurer of England, and as such he may frequently have met in London his far-away cousin, Sir Robert Danvers, judge, and lord of Culworth. In the year 1422 we find Robert and his wife Alice buying land of William and his wife Johanna. In the year 1427 William Danvers is mentioned in the post-mortem inquisition of Richard Windsore as holding of him the manors of Collerug, or Coserig, Wokefeld, and Chilton, in Berks (Collerug, Winterbourne, Leckhampsted, were manors in the parish of Chebrey, or Chieveley). William married Johanna, who appears to have been related to Matilda, daughter of Sir Ralph Ufford, and wife of the Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1371. Amongst the deeds belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford, is (Staneswyke, 41) a release, dated 1408, from Matilda de Vere, Countess of Oxford, to William Danvers and Joan, his wife, of all actions against them, while in her will Joan provides for prayers for the souls of her husband and of Matilda de Vere. Their names we have seen coupled in other ancient deeds.

William Danvers died in the year 1439, and was buried in the chapel of St. Francis in the Grey Friars' Church, in London. His wife died in January, 1457, and was buried in her husband's grave. Their tomb remained in the church until its post-reformation desecration and destruction (*vide* 'Collect. Topograph. et Genealog.,' vol. v., p. 288). Here also were buried the queens of Edward I. and Edward II., and of David Bruce, and with them many great nobles famous in their day. After the surrender of the house of the Grey Friars in 1539, the magnificent church of the convent remained for a time unoccupied, but not dismantled. In 1546 the monuments, the altars, and the woodwork remained, but every available part of the interior was filled with wine, which had been captured at sea from the French. Then by the King's gift the church was to become the parish church of Christ-church-within-Newgate; and on the King's death it was in great part dismantled, and all the monuments and grave-stones were sold for £50, or thereabouts.

William Danvers and his wife Joan had two children, a son, Robert, and a daughter, Eleanor. Robert married Alice Browne, but died young, leaving no children, and on his death we find his father, William, disposing of estates to be held in trust for his daughter Eleanor and for Alice, the widow of his son. In a deed (Miscellaneous, 114, Magdalen College) he conveys to trustees, William Dayrell and others, all his lands and tenements in West and East Compton, Oxenwode, and Boteneshaw, in the parish of Hampstead Ferrers, with lands in Whitney, Tylehurst, Warfield, and Reading, and in Little Forstebury, to execute his last will, and in case of his dying intestate, to convey the lands to his daughter Alianore, and failing her issue, to his right heirs.

In another deed, dated 1427 (Magdalen College, Staneswyke, 10), William Danvers conveys to Thomas Kyngeston, John Golofre, John Cotesmore, William Brocays, and others, his manors of Wynterbourne Magna, Aston Thorold, and Chilton, with all his lands in Chilton, and his manor of Wyke, with the advowson of the chapel, to hold on condition that they enfeoff his wife Joan for the term of her life, and to carry out the provisions of his last will, that all the said manors should be sold, and the proceeds laid out in behalf of the souls of himself and his wife, and in works of charity. Then in 1423 (Staneswyke, 66 and 67) we have a deed under which his feoffees are to enfeof his wife of his manor of Wynterbourne Grey, Aston Thorold, and Chilton, and of all his other lands in Wynterbourne, Oxenwode, Mottesfount, Little Forstbury, and other places, which would come to his feoffees on the death of Alice, wife of his deceased son Robert. There are several other documents amongst those in the possession of Magdalen College from which it appears that these estates were eventually divided between the colleges of St. Mary, Winchester, and St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford.

Amongst the Harleian charters is one (49, c. 16) of William Danvers, from which we learn that Alice, daughter of John Browne, formerly held the manor of Lekhampstead conjointly with her husband, Robert, son of William, who is now dead without heirs; and the above manor and other lands are given to trustees to hold for Alice for her life, and, should she die childless, to pass to William's rightful heirs. William

Danvers' signature is appended and also his seal, a fine one in red wax. It bears the Danvers arms, a chevron, with three mullets, pierced, of five points. The shield is suspended by a strap from a tree, and within is a gothic carved panel; encircling the shield 'Sigillum Willelmi Daunvers.' The date is 5 Henry VI. William's will, a short Latin one, is at Somerset House (Luffenam, 27), was made on December 14, 1439, and was proved the last day of the following January. From the will it appears that William Danvers (de Aunvers) lived at Winterbourne Danvers, Berks, and he leaves his goods there to his wife Johanna.

With William Danvers the Berkshire branch of the family in the male line came to an end.

Joan Danvers survived her husband many years, and was careful to carry out his wish, that in default of heirs his lands should be devoted to religious uses.

In a deed dated 1457 (Magdalen College, Miscellaneous, 124), Joan Danvers conveys to William, Bishop of Winchester, her manors of Wynterbourne Danvers, Winterbourne Grey, Winterbourne Magna, Aston Thorold, and Chilton.

The following quotation is from Chandler's 'Life of William of Waynflete' (p. 86): 'The hall which he founded at Oxford, as soon as he was raised to the mitre, had met with an early benefactress, Joan Danvers, relict of William Danvers, Esq. To this lady the manor of Wike, with its appurtenances at Ashbury, in Berks, had descended from Rafe Stanes, to whom it was given by fine 14 Edward III. She granted it, on July 17, 1453, to Waynflete and others. The next day the feoffees let it to her for the annual payment of a red rose, and vested the sole right in Waynflete by release. The president and society entered into an obligation, on May 24, 1454, to celebrate *exequies cum nota* for her soul, and for the souls of her husband and of Matilda de Vere, Countess of Oxford.'

The inquisition of Joan Danvers is No. 46 of 37 Henry VI., and relates to the disposition of her manors as explained above. Further, it shows that the manor of Wyke came to the family, not by inheritance, but by gift from Ralph de la Stanes, who had it from Gilbert de la Stanes. Ralph married Alice, sister of John, and daughter of Richard Cleet, and he and his wife dying without children, the manor was to pass to John Cleet, who was father to the mother of William Danvers.

The will of Joan Danvers, a Latin one, is preserved at Somerset House (Stokton, 11), and is very interesting, if only as an illustration of the feelings and customs of the times. Freely translated and somewhat epitomized, it runs as follows:

'In the name of God, Amen. I, Joan Danvers, late the wife of William Danvers, Esq., do make my will in manner following: I give my body to be buried in the church of the brethren of the Order of St. Francis, London, in the grave wherein the body of my late husband, William Danvers, lies. I give to each brother of the said house of the Order of St. Francis, London, being already in holy orders 12d., and to each novice 6d. I bequeath to the high altar of the mother Church of Sarun 3s. 4d. I give the ring* with my profession of widowhood to the image of the Crucifix near the north door of St. Paul's, London, to remain there among other jewels. I give to Sir John Causham, monk of Goring, to pray for my soul, for the soul of my late husband, also for that of the Lady Matilda de Vere, Countess of Oxford, 20s. I will that my executor find two chaplains for one year, or one fit chaplain for two years, to celebrate in the Church of St. Francis, London, to sing St. Gregory's trental.† I will that my executors after my death do sell all my goods for money, and that with the money they pay all my debts and those of my late husband. The residue of my goods I wish to be distributed among poor people who in the judgment of my executors most need it; also towards the repair of ways, bridges, and paths, especially a lane by the side of Wynterbourne, in the way towards Boxcore (Boxford) in Berks. To be my executors I ordain Master Robert Roke, clerk, and Sir Lawrence Stafford, chaplain, and Robert Danvers, one of the justices *in commune loco* of the lord the King, to be the supervisor of my will. The residue of all my goods I give to the said Master Robert and Sir Lawrence.' The will is dated

---

* In the Middle Ages it was a common practice for widows to take a vow of chastity, receiving a peculiar robe and ring. *Vide* 'Archæologia,' vol. xl., p. 307.

† An office for the dead, consisting of thirty masses rehearsed for thirty days successively.

June 16, 1453. There is a codicil, dated January 5, 1457, giving legacies to servants as follows:

'ffirst that John Normavile my Cooke haue alle vessells in my Kecchyn that war delyuered him be Indentur that is to saye potts pannys Spetre and Pewtre vessell that were in his Kechin the day of Passage. And also a Reward of money aftre the discrecion of Maister Robert Rooke, Principalle of myn Executours. And of his good beryng.

'Also I wille that John Tegalle haue the Blak bed, w^t^ Selou^r^, and Testo^r^ and Covering. And also alle the Litille bed that I lye oon, that is to say federbed blankettes Shetis and Pelowe. Also a Rewarde of Money aftre ye said Maister Robert discrecion. Also I will that my seruantes that lie in my bedding that they haue the same bedding that they occupie, and iche of theim haue a payre of Shetis moo than the paire that iche of them occupieth. Also I wil my Seruaunds that is to say John Moris and Mawde Cookes haue Reward in syluer aftre the discrecion of the forsaid Maister Robert.

'Also I wolle that Avice that was sum tyme w^t^ me haue in money xiijs. iiijd. Also I wol that my Cousin wōnyng by the welle w^t^ iij bokettes haue xiijs. iiijd. It'm I wol yat Isabelle fferour that wōnys in Southweke haue vjs. viijd. It'm I will that my Confessour haue xxs.'

CHAPTER XVII.

A.D. 1520—1800.

DANVERS OF COLTHORPE, RATLEY, UPTON, ADDERBURY, BAYNTON AND TOCKENHAM.

The Danvers of Ratley, Upton, and Adderbury derived their descent from William Danvers of Colthorpe, third son of Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse and his wife, Ann Pury.

It is, however, doubtful whether William Danvers lived at Colthorpe, for the house seems to have remained during her life in the possession of Eleanor, widow of his elder brother, Thomas Danvers. In the year 1524 we find Eleanor living at Colthorpe, and paying the highest subsidy in Nethrop and Colthorpe (Oxon Lay Subsidy Roll ($\frac{161}{178}$) of 1524). William, no doubt, made Upton House his home. Upton is a hamlet of the parish of Ratley, in Warwickshire, and is about six miles north-west of Banbury. There Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse bought the land which, Dugdale tells us, he depopulated and emparked, and the property remained in his family till the year 1640, when it was bought by the Archers of Tysoe. It subsequently passed to the Jersey family, by whom it was recently (1894) sold to Lord Chesham.

William Danvers* married Cicely, daughter of John Don,† or Done, of the old Cheshire family of that name. The match does not appear in the Don pedigree as given in Ormerod's 'Cheshire,' but a Cicely, a daughter of John Don of the period, married Hugh Davenport of Calverley, and it may have been this Cicely Don who as a widow married William Danvers.

---

* See pedigree in Chapter VI.

† Harleian MS. 808, copy of Visitation of Oxford, p. 46, makes Cicely the daughter of Sir Ralph Done of Cheshire. See also Danvers in Visitation of Oxford, Harleian Society's publications, vol. v.; and in Dugdale's 'Warwick,' vol. ii., index; pedigree of Danvers of Upton.

William Danvers by his wife Cicely had four sons, of whom George, the eldest, succeeded his father, and we learn from the latter's inquisition that George, his heir, was born in the year 1520. George is mentioned, as is also his mother Cicely, in the will of his grandmother, Dame Ann Danvers,* who leaves George 6s. 8d. to pray for her soul. At the age of nineteen George Danvers was admitted at Gray's Inn. He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Doyley, of Eweden and Greenlands, of the ancient race of that name, descended from Robert Doyley, the favourite of the Conqueror, and the fellow-soldier at Senlac of the ancestor of George Danvers. As we have already noticed, the families were in ancient times neighbours and friends in Oxfordshire, and doubtless George Danvers had this in mind when he embellished the oriel window at Colthorpe House with the shields of Danvers and Doyley. Of these shields three remain. One bears the arms of Danvers impaling Doyley, and beneath the words, 'Danuers mached Doyley.' Another shield bears the Danvers (Brancestre) arms with the words, 'Danuers lounge time owned Cothroppe.' And a third probably bore the arms of Doyley, for beneath it are the words, 'Robert Doyley cam oute of Normandie with the Conqueror, married Algitha, d. of Wigotee lord of Wallingford.'

---

* Ann Pury. See p. 185 for a short mention of the Pury family. We are obliged to the kindness of Lady Elizabeth Cust for further references to the Pury family as follows: Bigland's 'Gloucester,' Fosbrooke's 'Gloucester,' Rudder's 'Gloucester,' and Atkyn's 'Gloucester.' Also Tighe's 'Annals of Windsor' (see indices to these works). From the latter author we learn that, A.D. 1443, John Pury, Esq., and others granted land to the Provost and College of the Blessed Peter, near Windsor. *Temp.* Henry VI. William Pury was one of the office-bearers of the borough of Windsor. 2 Edward IV., Edmund Pury was Mayor of Windsor, and was an Alderman of the borough 13 Edward IV. In 1502 John Pury willed an anniversary (*obit*) in the church at Windsor. A.D. 1510 William Pury was Member for Windsor. In Fosbrooke's 'History of the City of Gloucester' is mention of the monument in the Church of St. Mary de Crypt, to Thomas Pury, died A.D. 1580, late Mayor of Gloucester. Amongst the quarterings of his coat-of-arms are those of Danvers (Brancestre) Pury, and Bruley. The epitaph states that Thomas Pury was son and heir of William Pury, younger brother of the John Pury whose daughter Ann married Sir William Danvers. As Sir William Danvers married about A.D. 1470-75, it is not improbable that the John Pury who willed an anniversary in 1502 was his father-in-law, and that William Pury, Member for Windsor in 1510, was this John Pury's younger brother, and the father of the Thomas Pury of Gloucester. The family is not, so far as we can learn, now represented in the male line.

It will not be amiss to introduce here a brief notice of the connection of the Doyley family with Eweden and Greenlands, especially as the present owner of this ancient estate of the Doyleys* is lineally descended from Sir William of Chamberhouse, grandfather of George Danvers.

In the year 1384 Thomas Doyley† purchased the manor of Eweden or Iveden, in the parish of Hambleden, and, dying shortly after, was followed in the estate by his son and heir William,‡ who died in the year 1424, and was succeeded at Eweden by his second son Richard, who died in the year 1435. Richard was followed by his son William, died in 1449, and his grandson John. This John Doyley was in his day a great warrior, 'a famouse souldier' celebrated for his exploits in France. He bought Greenlands or Southland, and to it removed his residence from Eweden. John died in the year 1492, and was buried in Hurley Church, not far from Greenlands, on the opposite side of the river, where his monument remains. John was followed by his eldest son, Thomas, who as his first wife married Alice Coulson, and by her had several children, amongst them John, his heir, and Margaret, who married George Danvers. His second wife was Dame Alice Cottesmore, widow of Sir William Cottesmore, of Baldwyn-Brightwell. Thomas was buried in St. Peter's aisle of Hambleden Church. By his second wife he left a son, Robert Doyley of Merton College, who became progenitor of the Doyleys of Adderbury. John Doyley, the son of Thomas, married Frances Edmonds, stepdaughter of Lord Williams of Thame, and daughter of Andrew Edmunds of Cressing-Temple, Essex, by his wife Elizabeth Bledlow, who afterwards married Lord

---

* The Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P.

† W. D. Bayley's 'History of the Doyley Family.'

‡ William's granddaughter Isabel was the first wife of Thomas de Wicham, and to them and their issue, in the year 1410, Robert de Wicham gave the lordship of Swalecliffe. They had issue Thomas, progenitor of the present family of Wykeham.

Williams. John Doyley was at the dissolution associated with Williams in the commission for the sale of Church lands, and amongst other lands those of St. Frideswide, Oxford, and of Oseney Abbey, religious houses which his ancestors founded and endowed. John Doyley obtained large grants of Church lands, and died in the year 1569; George Danvers and Robert Doyley of Merton College were his executors; he was buried in Hambleden Church. His widow, Frances, married Richard Danvers, younger brother of George Danvers—a richly-endowed widow, for besides her jointure she was heiress to her brother Sir Christopher Edmunds. She lived to a great age, and was much at Court during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. She died in the year 1601.* John Doyley was succeeded by his son, Sir Robert Doyley, a great courtier who died of the pestilence at the black assize of Oxford in the year 1577, and was buried in the Doyley dormitory in Hambleden Church. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Keeper Nicholas Bacon. After her first husband's death Elizabeth married once or twice, and as Lady Periam lived in 'very bountiful style' at Greenlands to an advanced age. Sir Robert was succeeded by his brother John Doyley of Chibenhurst and of Chiselhampton. He married Ursula, sister of Sir Anthony Cope of Hanwell, 'a great friend of the Gospel,' and was succeeded by his son Sir Cope Doyley, who, on Lady Periam's death, removed to Greenlands about the year 1623. He married Martha Quarles, and died in August, 1633, and, with his wife, was buried in Hambleden Church, where his monument remains. Sir Cope was succeeded by his son Sir John Doyley, the Royalist, who defended Greenlands House a long time against the army of the Parliament. The old hall of the Doyleys was almost destroyed by the fire of the besiegers, and Sir John, impoverished by his loyalty and unable to undertake the cost of its restoration, sold the ruins and retired to Chiselhampton, in which estate he was succeeded by his son Sir John Doyley of Chiselhampton. Of the old home of the Doyleys at Greenlands nothing remains, but in the grounds of the present house may still be seen piles of cannon-balls which have been gathered from the site of the former mansion.

---

* Inquis. P.M. Court of Wards, 44 Elizabeth, p. 173. She is called widow of Richard Danvers. Her heir is her son John Doyley, aged fifty and more.

To return to George Danvers. It is probable that portions of the present Colthorpe house were built by him, for it is not likely that the Copes* who obtained possession of Colthorpe about the year 1592, or the Hawteyns† who lived there and also matched Doyley, would place the Danvers shield in the window of their hall. In the year 1566‡ George Danvers, Richard Fynes of Broughton Castle, and Anthony Cave, sign the Lay Subsidy Rolls of Banbury—a fine strong signature, George Davers—and three years after Danvers and Fynes are appointed Commissioners of Musters of Oxfordshire. In the year 1570§ we find George Danvers corresponding with the minister, Cecil, regarding a subsidy which was to be levied in anticipation of war with Spain. The association of Danvers with Fynes would show that the former had joined the Puritan party, of which the Fynes of Broughton were the local leaders.

George Danvers died prior to the year 1575, for that year his son John takes his place in the Lay Subsidy Roll of the inhabitants of Colthorpe and Nethrop. George left two sons, John, his heir, and Thomas. Thomas married Margaret, or Magdaleine, daughter of Francis Barnard of Abindon, Northampton. He had a son, George of Morton, who married Frances Woodford, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married . . . Dimmock of Lincoln. George of Morton had a son, Harrington, who married Jane, daughter of Richard Clarke of Bicester, Oxon, and had by her a son, Henry, and two daughters, Margery and Maria Guy. The latter, in 1694, administered to her father's effects. He is described in the administration as a widower, and of the parish of St. Michael's, Basinghall, London.

To return to John, eldest son of George of Colthorpe. He is present in the Banbury Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1575 ($\frac{162}{341}$) and 1580 ($\frac{162}{345}$), but is absent in that of 1596 ($\frac{163}{398}$). He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Richard Verney of Compton, Warwick, and great-granddaughter of Anne Verney, daughter of Sir William Danvers of Chamberhouse. John and Dorothy had two sons,* George, the son and heir, and John, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, Mary, and Anne. Dorothy died in 1590, and was buried at Banbury on October 2 of that year (church register). In the pedigree given in Dugdale's 'History of Warwick' John is called of Banbury, Colthorpe, and Upton, while in the Visitation of Oxon, Harleian MS., 5812, he is called John Danvers of Stanton in Leicestershire. The family had no property in Leicestershire, and one can only account for his settling there by supposing that, because of his religious views, Banbury and Upton became distasteful to him, and that he found a more congenial home at Stanton Wyvil, where his aunt, Elizabeth Tyringham, was settled. That John Danvers† and his family held views which conflicted with those of Puritan Banbury is disclosed by the Domestic State Papers of the period. They show that Banbury at the time was eminently Puritan, and, in token thereof, in the year 1571 elected as its member Anthony Cope of Hanwell, one of the leaders of the early Puritans. Moreover, as its vicar Banbury had at the time the eminent Puritan divine, Dr. Thomas Brasbridge, while not many years after this the townsmen showed their zeal for Puritanism by destroying Banbury Cross and all other such crosses on which they could put their hands.

---

* Proceedings in Chancery, Elizabeth (C.C. 9, No. 36), June 29, 1601.

† Lay Subsidy Roll, Oxon, 1596 ($\frac{163}{398}$), and Visitation of Oxon, Harleian Society's vol. v., p. 226.

‡ Lay Subsidy Roll, Oxon $\frac{162}{331}$.

§ Domestic State Papers, vol. for 1547-80.

Dr. Brasbridge appears to have been specially disliked by the Danvers family, for we find that in 1589 articles were brought against Mary Green of Wickham and Jane Petherton,‡ her servant, and also against John Danvers and his wife and others for recusancy. 'Danvers and his household at Christmas time came not to church, but indulged in dancing or some other like pastime. Also the Danvers family assaulted Thomas Brasbridge, their minister. Anne Haile held the said minister by the gown, while Anne Danvers did buffet him very sore about the face and head.' Who the Anne Danvers was who manifested her abhorrence of Puritanism in this fanatical way we cannot say, but John, who preferred pastimes to attendance on Dr. Brasbridge's ministry, we identify with the John of our present history. In 1589 he became High Sheriff of Oxon, and distinguished himself by his contests with Sir Anthony Cope and his Puritan allies. On May 22 of that year,* John Danvers, Sheriff of Oxon, writes to all Justices of the Peace and other officers in the county directing them 'to repress all riots and tumults that may be raised under pretence of taking down Maypoles, which, being well used, and the time of Divine Service duly observed, were lawful to be kept.' On the same day he writes from Cothropp to the Lord Chancellor that he has been obliged to acquaint the Archbishop of Canterbury with the bad proceedings of Anthony Cope and others of the town of Banbury, who under the plea of religion were practising to abolish most pastimes used in the country as, Maypoles, Morris-dancers, Whitsun ale and others, to the great discontent of her Majesty's loving subjects.' On the other hand, on June 6, Richard Wheatley, constable of the Hundred of Banbury, writes to the Council complaining of the resistance of John Danvers, High Sheriff of Oxford, to the precepts of the Deputy-Lieutenant for the taking down of Maypoles. And in July,† 1589, Sir Francis Knollys, writing to Lord Burleigh, contrasts the manner and behaviour of Anthony Cope and John Danvers, the latter 'one of those persons who leaned passionately to the strict observance of the ceremonies of the Book of Common Prayer.' He speaks of his contentious behaviour, and of the virtuous behaviour of Mr. Cope.

---

* See pedigree of Danvers in Dugdale's 'Warwick,' and pedigree of the family in Visitation of Northampton, Harleian Soc., vol. v. See also Proceedings in Chancery, Elizabeth, D.D. 9 and D.D. 10.

† See Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 238 *et seq;* and Domestic State Papers, vol. of 1581-90.

‡ Calendar of Domestic State Papers, vol. of 1581-90.

However, the Puritans had their way, and waxed stronger in Banbury under the leadership of Mr. Cope of Hanwell, the Fynes of Broughton, and Lord Brooke, so John Danvers seems to have quitted in disgust his ancestral mansion, retiring to a place where Maypoles and Morris-dancers and Whitsun ale were not prohibited, where church and church functions were not governed by a Puritan minister, and where in a green old age, hearty, cheerful, and at peace with his neighbours, he might rejoice in the old ways of his forefathers.

---

* Calendar of Domestic State Papers, vol. of 1581-90.

† Beesley's 'History,' p. 615.

John Danvers died in the year 1591; his will, made on the first day of that year (O.S.), was proved in the following December. As he had property at Boughton, in Lincoln, his will has been registered in the probate office of Lincoln.

He gives to George Danvers, his eldest son, his manor of Upton, Warwick, and his lands there, his household stuff, and a lease which he had granted to his brother Thomas. To George also he leaves his mansion at Colthorpe, with its lawns, grounds and barns. To his younger son, John, lands in Colthorpe and the timber thereon, which were late in the occupation of the Hospital of St. John. He mentions his daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Anne and Margaret, and his brother Thomas, to whom he leaves a legacy. He leaves legacies also to Mr. John Bradshawe and to Anne Gale. His executors are Richard Fynes, John Doily, Edmund and Thomas Danvers.

John, the younger son of John Danvers and Anne Verney, settled at Fyfield in Berkshire, and . . . White of that village married his sister, Anne Danvers. He himself married Mary, daughter of . . . White, and had a son, George (Harleian MS., 1094). His sister Mary married Abel Rowswell (or Russel) of Martle (March ?), Somerset.

George, the eldest son, married twice. His first wife was Margaret, daughter of Richard Wake of Hartwell, a village near Blisworth, and he is therefore sometimes called Danvers of Blisworth. He may have had property in Blisworth, but he was not lord of the manor, which was forfeited to the Crown by a Wake who followed the fortunes of Richard III. By his first wife George Danvers had one son, who died, leaving no issue, in the year 1618. About the year 1597 George Danvers married his second wife, Maria, daughter of Simon Edolphe of St. Radegund's, Kent (Visitation of London of 1634), and of Adderbury, Oxon, where, in the year 1580, Edolphe's name stands first on the Lay Subsidy Roll (Oxon $\frac{162}{345}$). By his second wife George Danvers had sons, John, George, William, Richard, Henry, and daughters, Anne, Mary, Sybil, Frances, Dorothy. One of the daughters

(Mary or Anne?) married John Washington of Radway. George Danvers sold the old seat of the family,* Colthorpe manor house, to the Copes, who leased or sold it to the Hawteyn family, whose arms are on a shield over the present entrance. In the year 1595 the Hawteyns appear in the Lay Subsidy Roll as of Colthorpe and Nethrop.

George Danvers removed to London, where he was in business. Subsequently he lived at Stanwell, Middlesex, where he died, and where he expresses a wish that he may be buried. His will (Scroope, 70) was proved in 1630. He mentions all his children and his sister, Mary Russell. He leaves his mansion at Ratley, Warwick, to his eldest son. His post-mortem inquisition (No. 145 of 10 Charles I.) calls him 'of Upton and Ratley,' and states that his heir, John,† was thirty years of age and upwards.

John Danvers, eldest son of George Danvers and Mary Edolphe, died in the year 1658. In his will (Wootton, 449) he bequeaths the manor of Upton and the rest of his Warwickshire property to his brother-in-law, Richard Swann, his brother George, and his nephew, Peter Yate, to hold in trust for his nephew John, son of his brother William, until of age. Failing him, the property is to pass to another nephew, John, son of his brother George.

He mentions his brother Henry, his brother-in-law John Washington, and his godson John Washington of Kineton; Stephen Yate and his nephew Peter Yate, and Mary Yate, daughter of Peter; his nieces, Damaris and Susan Swann, daughters of his sister Dorothy, and he also mentions E. Yate, to whom he leaves his sword. He also leaves legacies to Elizabeth, Hannah and Deborah, daughters of his brother George, to the children of his sister Sibell Edulph, and to Elizabeth, daughter of his late brother William when she is of age, failing her, the legacy is to go to her brother John; other legacies to relatives and friends and to the poor of Ratley, Radway and Kineton, are included in the will.

---

* Proceedings in Chancery, C.C. 9, No. 36 of June, 1601.

† Close Roll, 6 Charles I., part xxviii., Frances, executor of George Danvers, acknowledges payment of money due by her brother John to the estate.

In the Close Roll of the year 1659 (part xxix., M. 37) a deed is recorded by which Richard Swann, citizen and merchant of London, and George Danvers, citizen and dyer of London, executors to the will of John Danvers the elder of Upton, provide regarding £100 left by him to the poor of Ratley. This Richard Swann* married Dorothy, daughter of George Danvers, and by her had two daughters, Damaris and Susan (Visitation of London, Harleian Society's vol. xv.).

The John Washington who is mentioned in the will of John Danvers married Mary, daughter of George Danvers. He was the son of Walter Washington,† of Radway, who died in the year 1597, by his wife Alice Morden. John was therefore cousin to the Rev. Lawrence Washington, Fellow of Brasenose College, whose sons, John and Lawrence, emigrated to America, from one of whom George Washington, first President of the United States of America, descended.

John Danvers and Walter and George Washington were companions in arms on the Royalist side, for we learn from the Domestic State Papers (September 17, 1650) that Danvers' estates were seized and inventoried on the plea that in the year 1642 he had relieved and maintained King's soldiers in his house at Upton, and had assisted Walter and George Washington, who were in arms against the Parliament.

William Danvers, to whose son John, John the elder, of Upton, left the Warwickshire property, married Elizabeth Piert, and died in the year 1675, leaving two sons and two daughters. Roland, the elder son, married . . . Fermor, of Northampton, relict of Worcup (Dugdale's 'Warwick,' vol. ii., index). He died of a wound received at Namur, leaving no issue. His brother John died a minor and unmarried, and thus the male line, in Warwickshire, of William Danvers and Ann Pury, died out.

---

* Walter was grandson of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave. See 'Ancestry of Washington,' by H. F. Waters, Esq., M.A. Boston, 1889.

† In the church of Mickleton, Gloucester, is a monument to Captain Richard Swan, who made six voyages to the East Indies, and to his relict, Mrs. Dorothy Swan. He died in June, 1676, æt. 59, and his widow in January, 1688. On their tomb are the Danvers (Brancestre) arms. In the same church are monuments to the Graves family, one of whom, Samuel, married Damaris, daughter of Richard and Dorothy Swan. He died A.D. 1708, and she, æt. 68, in 1719.—Rudder's 'Gloucester,' p. 547.

George, fourth son of George Danvers and Maria Edolphe, had, as appears from his brother John's will, a son John, and daughters Elizabeth, Hannah, and Debora. Probably this is the George Danvers whom we find in the Close Roll of October 18, 21 Charles II. (1666), buying of Simon Edolphe, of St. Radigunde's, Kent, the site of the dissolved monastery of St. Radigunde, with the house, edifices, barns, orchards, pastures, etc., with land in various places in Kent, amounting in all to one thousand acres. He it is who signs the Herald's Visitation of London of the year 1634. His wife was Jane, daughter of . . . Mericke, of Bristow. His house is in the ward of Faringdon Without. This is in all probability the George Danvers who died in the year 1670, and who in his will (Penn, 90) describes himself as citizen and linendraper, and as having several houses in Aldgate, as well as copyhold land in the parish of St. Osith, Essex. His son John is dead, and he desires that he may be buried in his grave. He has a wife living, to whom he leaves his horses, cows, pigs, and poultry. He has three daughters, Debora, Lydia, Susan, and a cousin, Peter Yeat, the mention of whose name connects him with the Warwickshire family, and he has, too, a cousin, Montague Lane; these two he makes his executors. He has sisters, Rebecca Powell and Penelly Harlow. The will was proved in July, 1670. The names of the daughters, excepting Debora, do not agree with those mentioned in the will of John Danvers of Upton as daughters of his brother George; but Elizabeth and Hannah may have died, and others, Lydia and Susan, may have been born after the will was made.

William Danvers of Colthorpe had, besides his children by his wife Ciceley, a 'base sonne by Mary Tynwy' (Harleian Society's Publications, vol. v., p. 188, Visitation of Oxford), who in the Herald's Visitation of Oxford is called John of London. John married Isabel, daughter of Sir John Wryothesley, and had by her sons Rowland and Mark. Rowland Danvers is called 'of County Suffolk,' and had a son and heir, William, who had four daughters, his co-heirs. Mark, Rowland's brother, married Joan, daughter of John Bell, and had a son, William, and divers other children. So much from the Visitation; but we gain further information regarding the family from other sources. Thus Noble, in his 'History of the College of Arms,' tells us that the proper name of the so-called Sir John Wriothesley was John Wrythe, and that he was Garter King of Arms in the time of Richard III. and Henry VII., and was 'the father of the college.' Noble also tells us that Wrythe was three times married, and that by his third wife, Ann, daughter of . . . Mynne, he had two daughters, of whom one, Isabel, married, first, William Gough, and, second, John Danvers of Worminghall, Bucks. Then Wotton, in his 'Baronetage of England,' tells us (vol. ii., p. 475) that the Davers family of Rougham were supposed to descend from John Danvers of Worminghall, who married the daughter of . . . Popham, and had a son John, who married Isabel, daughter of Sir John Wriothesley, Garter King of Arms, and by her had a son Rowland, a son John, slain at Bullen, a son Luke, slain at Newhaven, and a son Mark, of Cleare Hall, Suffolk, who was twice married—first, to Jane, daughter of Richard Beale; and, secondly, to Joan, daughter of John de le Hoo, by whom he had a son, John Davers, Esq. A presumed descendant of this John, who amassed a large fortune in the West Indies, returned to England, purchased Rougham Hall, in Suffolk, and was made a baronet on May 12, 1682. He had descendants, the Davers, baronets of Rougham, the last of whom, Sir Charles Davers, was M.P. for Edmundsbury, and died about the year 1806, leaving no son, and the baronetcy then became extinct. Harleian MS. 891, p. 14, tells us that the above-mentioned Mark Danvers married Joane Beale, and that their children's names were William, Wriothesley, Joane, Bridget, Dorothy, Barbara. Harleian MS. 1560, a copy of the 'Visitation of Suffolk,' by Richard Mundy, makes the John Danvers who married Isabel Wriothesley the son of John Danvers of Worminghall and . . . Popham, and the latter John, son of a William Danvers of Worminghall and John Walcott, which William was the son of another William of Worminghall and Agnes, daughter of Robert Wallis, which last William was son of John Danvers by the daughter of Sir Lancelot Lisley. From the above somewhat discordant statements we gather that John of London of the Oxford Visitation was also of Worminghall, and was, as that Visitation states, the base son of William Danvers, of Upton and Banbury.

DANVERS OF ADDERBURY.*

The manor of St. Amands, in Adderbury, was bought from Sir Thomas Wickham by John Danvers, and was devised by him to his son, Thomas of Waterstok. From Thomas it passed, on his death, to his brother William, and next to William's third son, William. This William and his wife Cicely had four sons, George, who we have seen married Margaret Doyly, Edmund, John, and Richard; they had also two daughters, Elizabeth and Barbara. Elizabeth married Edmund Tyringham,† of Stanton-Wyvil, Leicester. Barbara died unmarried.

Edmund, the second son, inherited the Adderbury estate, which, as we learn from his father's inquisition,‡ consisted of thirty houses and homesteads, and seven hundred acres of land.

The village is about three miles to the south of Banbury, and includes East and West Adderbury, Milton, and Burford St. John. Adderbury is famous for its noble church, the chancel of which was built by William of Wykeham.§ Tradition asserts that this church and those of Bloxham and King's Sutton were built by three masons, who were brothers, and that the devil, serving them as a labourer, fell one day with a hod of mortar which he was carrying, and so made Crouch Hill. The relative merits of the spires of the churches are commemorated in the local lines:

'Bloxham for length,
Adderbury for strength,
And King's Sutton for beauty.'

Edmund is mentioned in the Oxon Lay Subsidy Roll of 1596 ($\frac{1}{3}\frac{6}{9}\frac{3}{8}$), and in the inquisition of his brother Richard. He married Cycely Woodford (Visitation of Oxon), of Burnham, Bucks, and had by her three sons, George, Thomas and

---

* See table of descent in Chapter VI.

† Metcalfe's edition of Vincent's 'Visitation of Northampton,' p. 144; and Lipscomb's 'Bucks,' vol. iv., p. 374.

‡ No. 140 of 1 Elizabeth, 2nd part.

§ Beesley's 'History of Banbury,' p. 109.

William, whose baptisms are registered at Adderbury in 1579, 1581 and 1583, as is also the death of George the third day from his baptism, December 24, 1579.

Richard, Edmund's brother, settled at Reading, and was twice married. His first wife's name we have not been able to discover, but he had by her one daughter, Cicely, married to Welbeck, who was fifty years of age at the time of her father's death. His second wife was Frances, widow of John Doyley, and therefore sister-in-law to Margaret Doyley, who married George Danvers, Richard's eldest brother. Frances was daughter of Andrew Edmunds, Esq., of Cressing-Temple, Essex, by Elizabeth Bledlow, who after her first husband's death married Lord Williams of Thame. Frances Danvers outlived her second husband, lived to a great age,* and was much at Court during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. We find her, with her husband Danvers, in the Chancery reports of the period,† and it is probable that it was through her stepfather Lord Williams' interest that her husband became possessed of the house and lands of the Brothers Minor, Grey Friars, of Reading.

In his will (Dorsett, 119, A.D. 1609) Richard desires that he may be buried in Caversham Church; he leaves legacies to members of the Welbeck family, and to the John Doyleys, father and son. To his nephew, William Danvers, he leaves his 'Turkie carpett' and his counterpoint. He mentions his sister, Barbara Danvers.

His post-mortem inquisition which is attached is interesting, not only because it mentions many members of the Danvers family, but also because of the careful provision which Richard made in order that his property should remain with his family. But, whether because the property had been sacrilegiously obtained, or because his successors did not value it so highly as did Richard, his carefully-made arrangements were all in vain, and the Grey Friars' land shortly after his death became the property of the Corporation of Reading.

---

* W. D. Bayley's 'History of the Doyley Family.'

† Chanc. Proceed., *temp.* Elizabeth E.e. 5, and James I., D. 4, No. 5.

Chancery Inq. P.M., 9 James I., pt 2, No. 177 (*Berks*).

Inqn taken at Abingdon 16 April 8 Jas. I [1610] before William Whetcombe Escheator, after the death of Richard Davers als Danvers Esq. by the oath of Thomas Steevens &c. &c. who say that Richard Danvers long before his death, to wit, on the 4th May, 24 Eliz. [1582] was seised in his demesne as of fee of 1 house or capital messuage and of the site of the House formerly of the Minor Brothers commonly called the Grey Friars of Reading lately dissolved; also of the cemetery and all houses, buildings, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements, &c. within the site, compass and precincts of the said House; all walls, ditches, waters and enclosures of the said site and precinct; also of the site and precincts of that House and enclosures containing altogether 6 acres.

So seised, the said Richard by indenture dated 20 January 1 Jas. I [1604] and made between him the said Richard by the name of Richard Danvers of Reading in co. Berks Esq. of the one part and Thomas Danvers by the name of Thomas Danvers of Adderbury in co. Oxon, gent of the other part, in consideration of the maintenance of the said Richard in food during his natural life, and also in consideration of the love which he bore towards 'Cyscelie' Welbeck his daughter and towards Thomas Danvers nephew of the said Richard, to wit, son of Edmund Danvers brother of the said Richard, and to William Danvers nephew (nepos) of the said Richard and brother of the said Thomas, and to George Danvers kinsman of the said Richard, to wit, son of Thomas Danvers deceased, son of George likewise deceased the brother of the said Richard, and to Richard Danvers of Cirencester in co. Gloucester,* kinsman of the said Richard, and to the Most Noble Henry Lord Danvers of Dantesey also kinsman of the said Richard and to their heirs male: and for the establishment and continuation of the lands & tenements afterwards herein specified in the said persons being of the blood and kin of the said Richard in such manner and of such estate as is afterwards herein mentioned: and for the better advancement of the said 'Cyscelie' and of the others aforenamed and in consideration that the lands & tenements hereafter mentioned shall remain in the blood and kindred of the said Richard; for all these considerations the said Richard granted to and agreed with the said Thomas Danvers of Adderbury and his heirs that he the said Richard and his heirs and every other person who should be seised of the house and site of the Grey Friars aforesaid & of other the premises aforesaid should be seised thereof to the use of the said Richard Danvers during his life; after his decease to the use of the said 'Cyscelie' for life; and after her decease to the use of the said Thomas Danvers his nephew and his heirs male; and for default of such issue to the use of the said William Danvers and his heirs male; for default, to the use of the said George Danvers and his heirs male; and for default, to the use of the said Richard Danvers of Cyrencester and his heirs male; for default, to the use of Henry Lord Danvers and his heirs male; and lastly for default then to the use of the right heirs of the said Richard Danvers for ever.

---

* P. 540.

All the tenements aforesaid are held of the King in capite by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per ann. (clear) 20s.

Richard Danvers died at Reading 12 December 6 Jas. I [1608]; the said Cecilia is his daughter and next heir and is now aged fifty years and more.

Thomas, born January 12, 1581, the eldest son of Edmund, is mentioned in the Lay Subsidy Roll (Oxon, $\frac{163}{435}$) and in that ($\frac{164}{467}$) of 1627, and evidently succeeded his father at Adderbury. He married Alice Knevet of Chester, and died in 1639, leaving no children. His will (Harvey, 36) was made in the year 1637, and shows him to have been a well-provided squire, enjoying a good deal of cash, as well as crops and cattle, and the tithes of Easington. He mentions his wife Als—Alice—and his brother William's eldest son, Edmond, and Edmond's brothers, George, William, Thomas, John, Charles, and their sister Ann. His wife Alice died in the year 1642. Her will (Campbell, 93) mentions her kin Richard, and his wife, Mary Powell or Rowell, and her kinswoman Anne, wife of Michael Chambers.

William, brother of Thomas, married Dorothy, daughter of Sir E. Clarke of Ardington, and by her had a large family: Thomas, the eldest, died young; Edward, or Edmund, the second son, is spoken of as the eldest in his Uncle Thomas's will. William died in 1659. His will (Pell, 501) mentions his sons as above, and also his daughters, Ann Chambers and Mary Danvers. He retains the tithes of Easington. George, son of William and Dorothy, made his will in April, 1643, proved in April, 1644 (Oxford Wills, Somerset House, series ii., vol. ix., fol. 251). He mentions his brothers John, William, and Charles, his sister Chambers and her daughter Dorothy, daughter of Michael Chambers. This sister's name, as we learn from other wills, was Anne, and she appears to have taken . . . Sherinton as her first husband. George had a sister, Rowell.

Edmund, eldest son of William and Dorothy, was baptized at Adderbury Church on June 28, 1609, and his brother William on November 8, 1612. Edmund appears to have died unmarried. His brothers William and George are mentioned in the Lay Subsidy Roll, Oxon ($\frac{164}{493}$), of 1641.

William Danvers married Mary, daughter of John Skevington* and Ann his wife, of a family which had been seated at Skevington in Leicester before the time of Henry III., and had thence taken their surname. William Skevington is described as of Skevington and of Tunbridge. He married Elizabeth St. Andrew, one of the heiresses of John St. Andrew of Gotham, Notts, and in right of his wife presented in 1673 his nephew William Danvers to the rectory of Skevington.

William and Mary Danvers had two daughters, Mary and Ann, and two sons, Charles and William. William, born in 1644, matriculated at Oriel College in the year 1661, took his M.A. degree in 1668, was presented to the rectory of Skeffington in 1667, and to that of Gotham in 1673.

In the year 1676—in the Hearth Tax Roll ($\frac{164}{513}$)—an Ann Danvers has a house, uninhabited, in Adderbury, and she probably was the last of her race who lived there.

---

* Or Skeffington.

Danvers of Baynton.*

This branch of the family took their descent from Henry, second son of Sylvester Danvers and his first wife Elizabeth Mordaunt. Henry's elder brother, John, was born in the year 1540, and Henry a few years later. He was admitted a student of the Inner Temple in the year 1564, and is mentioned in his father's will, which was made in the year 1549.

Henry Danvers married Joan, daughter and heiress of Anselm Lambe of Coulston by his wife Elena† Buckland, and settled at Baynton Manor, which he received as a part of the dowry of his wife. The manor is one in the parish of Edington; the manor house remained till about one hundred years ago (1796), when it was burnt down while in the occupation of the Long family—fragments of stone and brickwork still mark the site.

The manor formerly belonged to the monastery of Edington and subsequently to Lord Seymour of Sudeley. On his attainder it escheated to the Crown, and eight years after his execution was, in the year 1557, bought from the Crown by Anselm (or Auncell) Lambe.* The Lambes claimed descent from, and took the arms of, the Kentish family of their name, and some support is given to the claim by the fact that Henry Danvers of Baynton possessed the manor of East Greenwich in Kent, a manor which he must have obtained, as he did that of Baynton, by his marriage with Joan Lambe.

Henry Danvers died on October 20, 1579, and his post-mortem inquisition was taken at New Sarum on January 12 of the following year (No. 49, 23 Elizabeth, part i.) The inquisition states that he holds *in capite* half the manor of Baynton, formerly belonging to the monastery of Edington and afterwards to Lord Seymour of Sudeley, attainted of high treason; also he possessed half the manor of Coulston, formerly belonging to the monastery of Ambrosbury, and with these a mediety of seven messuages, seven cottages, seven gardens, forty acres land, one hundred acres meadow, three hundred acres pasture, twenty acres wood, one hundred acres gorse and heath, twenty shillings of rent, in Edington, Baynton, Tynhead, Coulston and Stoke. Also he held the manor of East Greenwich in free socage of the Queen. His eldest son and heir, John, was four years and four months old at the time of his father's death, and the boy's mother, Johanna, was alive. Henry Danvers had other sons, Charles and Joseph, and a daughter, Anne, who married Henry Bayliffe* of Monckton, Chippenham. The widow, Johanna, married Hugh Jones, and had a son, Francis Jones, who is mentioned in the inquisition of Charles Danvers, Johanna's son. Francis married Elizabeth, daughter of John Lambe of Coulston, and in the Visitation of Wilts of 1623 (Marshall's edition) is called of Penrose, Cornwall. His father, Hugh Jones, was the son of George Valence, alias Jones, who married one of the sisters of Silvester Danvers.

---

* See table of descent at p. 539; also Marshall's edition of 'Visitation of Wilts'; 'Wilts Archæological Society's Journal,' vol. iii., p. 108; Harleian MSS. 1165, fol. 37, and 1443, fol. 118; Foster's 'Alumni Oxoniensis'; Pedigree of Danvers of Dauntsey in Jackson's 'Aubrey's Wilts'; Canon Jackson's MSS. in possession of Antiquarian Society of London.

† Lambe's widow, Elena, married Nicholas Pirey. Charles, son of Henry Danvers, mentions his uncle Pirey in his will, Jackson MSS.

Joseph, son of Henry Danvers, died in the year 1597 (Inquis. P.M., 40 Elizabeth, part ii., No. 94). He was an idiot, but had property in Cornwall, and at Baynton and other places in Wilts. His heir was his brother Charles, aged at the time seventeen years and more.

John, eldest son of Henry Danvers, born in the year 1582, matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, in 1560; B.A. from Jesus College, 1605; died *s.p.*, 1626. He left property in Baynton, Edington, Coulston, and other places, which went to his heir, his brother Charles, aged at the time forty-five and more (Inquis. P.M., 3 Charles I., part iii., No. 36).

Charles of Baynton, second son of Henry, was born about the year 1580, and was educated at one of the universities, for he mentions in his will his College Cup, but to which university and college he belonged is not known. His wife's name was Maria, or Mary; her surname is unknown, but the wording of the will and of the post-mortem inquisition of her husband indicates that she belonged to Steepleashton, Wilts. They had fourteen children, who were all alive at the date of their father's death in the year 1627, and are mentioned in his will, which was made October 14, 1625. In the will (Skinner, 74) he speaks of his seven younger children, Edward, Charles, John, Silvester, Elinor, Lucy, Grace. His eldest son was Henry, not at the time of age; there were eight unmarried daughters, Amy, Jane, Joan, Elizabeth, Mary, Elinor, Lucy, Grace, and one, Anne, married at the time the will was made to John Danvers. The unmarried daughters are mentioned in order as above, and, after provision has been made for them, the sum of £300 is bequeathed to Anne and her husband John Danvers. If the married daughter was the eldest, Amy was the second, and Jane, who subsequently married George Herbert, the third. Besides their portions, Amy received a silver tankard and Jane her father's 'College Cup.'

---

* The Bayliffe family, descendants of Anne and Henry, are now represented by J. S. Bayliffe, Esq., of the Manor Farm, Seagry, Chippenham, who has issue.

Charles Danvers died in the year 1627, and his post-mortem inquisition was taken at Marlborough on March 28 of that year (3 Charles I., part iii., No. 73). His son and heir is Henry Danvers, aged eighteen years and five months. His will was made on October 14, 1625, and proved in June, 1627. Charles Danvers, besides the half manors of Baynton and Coulston, which he held of the Crown, had other property, which he received with his wife or purchased; in three Wilts Fines (Pasch., 4 James I.; Hillary, 5 James I.; Hillary, 9 James I.) he is the purchaser of lands in Edington and Coulston. In Steepleashton his wife had a tenement and land, and Charles had the manor of Potterne and the parsonage of Marston. Charles's executor is his brother-in-law, Henry Bayliffe, with Anthony Hungerford and William Whitaker as overseers.

Jane, the third daughter of Charles Danvers, was married at Edington on March 5, 1628-29, to the Rev. George Herbert, the famous poet and divine. With regard to this marriage, Walton, in his 'Life of George Herbert' (edition of 1670, p. 37), writes: 'These and other visible vertues begot him so much love from a gentleman of noble fortune and a near kinsman to his friend the Earl of Danby; namely from Mr. Charles Danvers of Bainton Esquire; that Mr. Danvers having known him long and familiarly, did so much affect him, that he often publickly declared a desire that Mr. Herbert would marry any of his nine daughters, but rather his daughter Jane, than any other, because Jane was his beloved daughter. And he had often said the same to Mr. Herbert himself; and that if he could like her for a wife, and she him for a husband, Jane should have a double blessing.' Eventually, though after her father's death, Jane was married to George Herbert, and became his very devoted and affectionate wife.* They had no children; and six years after her first husband's death, Jane Herbert married Sir Robert Cook, of Highnam Court, Gloucester, and had by him three sons, who all died young, and a daughter Jane. She survived her second husband about twenty years, and died and was buried at Highnam in the year 1663.

Appended to the will (Russell, 25) of George Herbert is a list of his deceased niece, Dorothy Vaughan's legacies, of which as many as seven are to members of the Danvers family, all of whom may be identified as follows: Mrs. Jane Herbert (Jane Danvers), Mrs. Danvers (Maria, widow of Charles Danvers, mother of Mrs. Jane Herbert), Amy Danvers (one of the elder daughters of Charles and Maria Danvers), Mrs. Anne Danvers (another daughter of Charles Danvers, married to John Danvers), Mrs. Mary Danvers (another daughter), Mrs. Michel (Joan, another daughter, married to Edward Mitchell), Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers (Elizabeth Bower, wife of Henry, son and heir of Charles Danvers).

Amongst Canon Jackson's MSS. is the original license, signed by Charles Danvers and John Penruddock, for an alehouse, victualling, or tippling house, at Warminster, which is dated 1626. The conditions of the license are: (1) That one quart of ale or best beere shall be sold for 1d., and two quarts of small beere for a penny; (2) no flesh to be dressed or eaten in the house in time of Lent, or upon any other prohibited days; (3) dycing and other unlawful games are not to be used in the house or garden; (4) no pawn or pledge to be taken for tipple or drink; (5) none to be allowed to tipple in the house above one hour; (6) none to tipple on Sabbath or fasting days in time of Divine service or sermon, nor after nine at night; (7) immediate information to be given if any vagabond or suspicious person offers goods for sale in the house; (8) no disorder or drunkenness to be suffered.

---

* For an account of their manner of life, see 'Life of George Herbert.' S.P.C.K., London, 1893.

Elinor, one of the younger daughters of Charles Danvers, married her second cousin, Sir John Osborn* of Chicksand, son of Sir Peter Osborn and his wife Dorothy daughter of Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey and Elizabeth Nevill. They had one son and two daughters. Elinor died in the year 1677, and her husband, Sir John Osborn, æt. eighty-three, in the year 1698.

Joan, another daughter of Charles Danvers, married Edward Mitchell, of Chiltern; she died in the year 1654.

Henry Danvers, eldest son and heir of Charles Danvers, was born in the year 1609; matriculated at Christchurch, Oxford, October, 1624; entered at the Middle Temple, 1623; M.P. for Devizes in 1640, and for the county of Leicester in the year 1653. He married, in the year 1629, Elizabeth, daughter of William Bower, of West Lavington. We have neither his will† nor his post-mortem inquisition. He had two sons, John and Charles, and a daughter Ann, who survived him, and several children who died young. His widow married William Yorke, of Bassett Down, Wilts, a bencher of the Inner Temple.

John of Baynton, son of Henry, matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, in October, 1652, and was admitted as a student at the Inner Temple in 1661. He sold the Baynton manor and property to Mr. John Long. His sister, Anne (baptized at Edington, May, 1634), married Charles Yorke, brother of William, in the year 1653, and died in 1661.

Charles Danvers of Baynton, second son of Henry, matriculated at Christchurch, Oxford, July, 1654; barrister-at-law, Inner Temple, 1664-65; Recorder of Devizes in 1668 and 1684 ('History of Devizes,' published by H. Bull at Devizes, 1859). Charles Danvers, 'late Recorder of Devizes,' is mentioned in the will of John Danvers of Prestcote (1720), and, as there stated, had a son Charles, a woollen-draper, and also a son John. Charles, the woollen-draper, had two or more sons.

---

* Betham's 'Baronetage,' vol. ii., p. 205; also Jackson's 'Aubrey's Wilts'; pedigree of Danvers.

† His effects were administered to in October, 1646, by his widow, Elizabeth Yorke, *alias* Danvers.

John Danvers of London, in all probability the son of Charles Danvers of Baynton and Devizes, appears in the poll books of the City of London as a draper in the years 1700, 1701, and 1713. Further, in the register of deaths of St. Peter's, Cornhill, is found the burial, on May 8, 1700, in the middle aisle of the church, of Jane, daughter of Lewis Wilson, and wife of Charles Danvers, woollen-draper.

In the year 1757 died Charles Danvers of Kensington, leaving a widow named Margaret, a son, John, daughters, Ann Bogg and Rebecca Johnson. The will is Hering, 11, and was made in the year 1743. Margaret, his widow, died in the year 1771; her will, made in 1765, mentions her daughter, Ann Bogg, and a granddaughter, Margaret Danvers, but makes no mention of her son John, and these were probably the last of the name of the Danvers of Baynton.

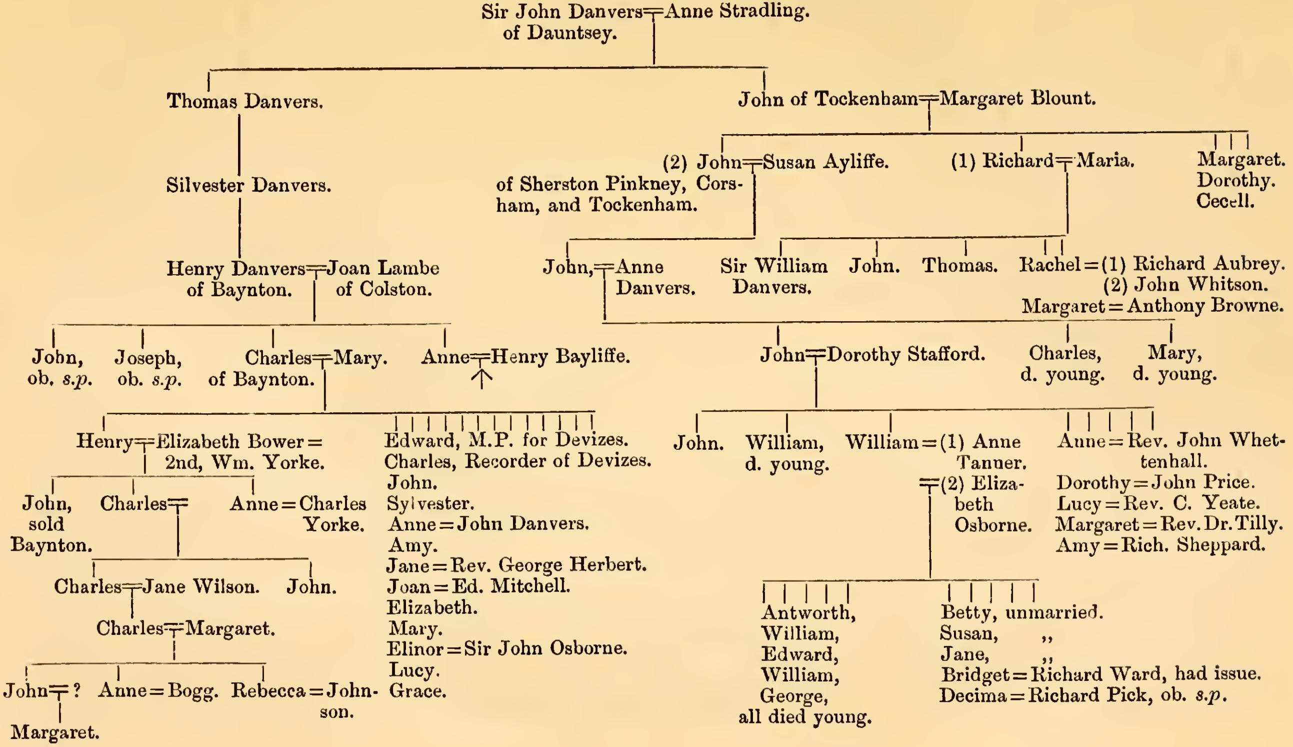
Danvers of Tockenham and Corsham.

This branch of the family traces its descent to John Danvers, fourth son of Sir John Danvers and Dame Anne of Dauntsey. John and his wife Margaret are both mentioned in Dame Anne's will. To him she leaves her farm of Tocknam, which she had by convent seal of the house of Bradenstoke, and she directs that two hundred sheep from her stock at Culworth and Prestcote be brought to Tocknam for his use. Tokenham, including East and West Tokenham and Tokenham Wyke, is a hamlet about four miles south-east of Dauntsey, and within the parish of Lyneham. John Danvers married Margaret Blount,* of the family of that name of Mangotsfield, or Mangerfield, Gloucester, and by her had two sons, Richard and John, and three daughters, Margaret, Dorothy, and Cecell. They are all mentioned in their father's will, which was made in the year 1556, and proved the same year (Kitchen, 22). In the Lay Subsidy Roll of Wilts of 3 Edward VI. (1549), John Danvers heads the list of those who pay the subsidy in the parish of Lyneham. John Danvers

---

* This match cannot be found in the Blount pedigree, and satisfactory evidence to it is wanting,—Harleian Roll, p. 10, affirms it.

DANVERS OF BAYNTON AND TOCKENHAM.


Sir John Danvers = Anne Stradling.
of Dauntsey.
Thomas Danvers.
John of Tockenham = Margaret Blount.
Silvester Danvers.
(2) John = Susan Ayliffe.
of Sherston Pinkney, Corsham, and Tockenham.
(1) Richard = Maria.
Margaret.
Dorothy.
Cecell.
Henry Danvers = Joan Lambe
of Baynton.
of Colston.
John, = Anne Danvers.
Sir William Danvers.
John.
Thomas.
Rachel = (1) Richard Aubrey.
(2) John Whitson.
Margaret = Anthony Browne.
John, ob. s.p.
Joseph, ob. s.p.
Charles = Mary.
of Baynton.
Anne = Henry Bayliffe.
John = Dorothy Stafford.
Charles, d. young.
Mary, d. young.
Henry = Elizabeth Bower = 2nd, Wm. Yorke.
Edward, M.P. for Devizes.
Charles, Recorder of Devizes.
John.
Sylvester.
Anne = John Danvers.
Amy.
Jane = Rev. George Herbert.
Joan = Ed. Mitchell.
Elizabeth.
Mary.
Elinor = Sir John Osborne.
Lucy.
Grace.
John.
William, d. young.
William = (1) Anne Tanner.
= (2) Elizabeth Osborne.
Anne = Rev. John Whettenhall.
Dorothy = John Price.
Lucy = Rev. C. Yeate.
Margaret = Rev. Dr. Tilly.
Amy = Rich. Sheppard.
John, sold Baynton.
Charles =
Anne = Charles Yorke.
Charles = Jane Wilson.
John.
Charles = Margaret.
John = ?
Margaret.
Anne = Bogg.
Rebecca = Johnson.
Antworth,
William,
Edward,
William,
George,
all died young.
Betty, unmarried.
Susan, ,,
Jane, ,,
Bridget = Richard Ward, had issue.
Decima = Richard Pick, ob. s.p.

in his will calls himself of Tockenham West. He has an annuity from the manor of Dauntsey, which is to continue for thirty years after his death, out of which legacies to his younger children are to be paid. His executors are Anthony and Robert Hungerford, allied to him by the marriages of two of his sisters. His goods and chattels are to be equally divided between his wife and his eldest son, Richard; the latter is not to enjoy his full estate until twenty-three years of age, and when his father made his will was not yet thirteen.

Richard Danvers succeeded his father at Tokenham, and increased his estate by the purchase of land in East Tokenham (Wilts Fine, Easter, 33 Elizabeth). He married Maria . . . ., with whom he received as dowry land in Gloucestershire. We find him in the Domestic State Papers of 1595 acting as a justice of the peace in the investigation of a robbery at Cirencester.* By his wife Maria he had three sons, William, John, Thomas, and two daughters, Rachel and Margaret. His will (Harte, 95), made in November, 1602, was proved in December, 1604. In it he calls himself of West Tockenham, mentions his wife Maria, and his children as above; also he mentions his brother, John, and his cousins, Giles Danvers and Sir Henry Danvers, and leaves to each of them a horse. To his wife Richard leaves the lands at Hill House, Gloucestershire, which belonged to her for her life, and, further, an interest for life to the extent of one-third in his other lands. He was buried at Lyneham, August 16, 1604.

His post-mortem inquisition (No. 81, 3 James I., part ii., and Court of Wards, Bundle 6, No. 82), taken at Marlborough, March 22, 2 James I., 1605, states that Richard Danvers died July 27 last past, and that William Danvers, his son and heir, is aged twenty-six years and more. Richard Danvers had lands in Hilmarton, Calne, West Tokenham, Tokenham Wycke, East Tokenham, and Wootton Basset, all in Wilts.

Richard evidently maintained a close intimacy with the Dauntsey cousins, and, indeed, drew a part of his income from an annuity levied on Dauntsey manor. From the Domestic State Papers (vol. for 1601) we learn that Sir Charles Danvers had a lease from his mother for fifty years of the Dauntsey estate, in virtue of which Giles and Richard Danvers acted as his agents in the management during his outlawry, and we find Richard Danvers holding a manor court at Dauntsey.

---

* See p. 530.

Maria Danvers, wife of Richard, died in the year 1622. In her will (Swan, 19) she is described as a widow of Tockenham Wyke, Wilts. She leaves legacies to the poor of Lynam and Tockenham; to her sister, Barbara Bushopp, a widow; to her son Thomas, a gold ring; to her daughter Margaret, wife of Anthony Browne, of Broadchalk, Wilts, a silver bowl; to her daughter Rachel, wife of John Whitson, Alderman of Bristol, a gilt salt. Alderman Whitson is executor and residuary legatee. Will proved February 14, 1622-23. One of the witnesses to the will is Richard Awbery. This Richard was grandson to Maria Danvers, being the son of her daughter Rachel by her first husband, John Aubrey of Burwelton.

Richard Aubrey (Awbrey or Awbery) of Broadchalk was born in 1603, and died in 1652.* He married Deborah, daughter and heiress of Isaac Lyte, of Easton-Pierse, Wilts, and had three sons, John, Thomas, and William. John, the eldest son, born March 12, 1626, was the famous antiquary and the historian of Wilts. He died in June, 1697, and was buried in the church of St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford. He tells us in his letters that his grandfather's widow, Rachel, married Alderman Whitson of Bristol. At Burghill Church, Hereford, is a brass to the memory of John Awbry, son of William Awbry.

The heir of Richard Danvers was his eldest son, William, who, as we learn from his father's post-mortem inquisition, was born in the year 1577-78. He is in all probability the William Danvers who, when fourteen years of age, matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford. William Danvers sold his share of the Tokenham property, for in the Close Roll of 5 James I. (part xlv.) is an entry to the effect that William Danvers of Tokenham sells his land at that place to Thomas Bonde, of the Middle Temple, the money to be 'upon the fonte stone of the Temple Churche neare Fleetestreete, London, without fraude covine or further delaye.'

---

* Briton's 'Memoir of John Aubrey.' London, 1845. Deborah Lyte was daughter of Israel Browne and Isaac Lyte. Israel was sister to Anthony Browne (Jackson MSS.).

William Danvers* was knighted at Hampton Court on November 17, 1607, and that it was this William who was thus honoured we learn from the inscription on his brother's tomb at Churchdown, near Gloucester:

> 'Here restyth the body of John Danvers, son of Richard Danvers, Esq., and brother to Sir William Danvers, who deceased January 16th, 1616.'

Further, in the year 1611,† Sir William Danvers sold to John Scott land in Hilmarton and Calne, where his father, Richard Danvers, possessed land, which he left to him.

One cannot now say why William Danvers was knighted, or what were the services which gained him the honour, but not improbably the title was an acknowledgment of the help which his father rendered, during the time of their troubles, to Sir Charles and Sir Henry Danvers. The latter had now become Baron Danvers of Dauntsey, and was high in favour with the King. Of Sir William's subsequent career nothing further has been traced.

Richard Danvers' third son, Thomas (baptized at Lineham, October 24, 1583), was living at Tokenham in the year 1620, when he is mentioned as of that place by Lady Lucy Baynton in her will. He is the 'Uncle Thomas' who, as John Aubrey tells us, attended the funeral of George Herbert at Bemerton in the year 1633. He is also mentioned in his mother's will.

The next member of the family for whom we have to account is John Danvers of Corsham. What was his parentage? Now, of John of Corsham we know, first, that he was one of the Wiltshire family, for at the time of his marriage with Susan Ayliffe he was living in the county, had property in it, and was related to Charles Danvers of Baynton, whom he calls 'cousin,' and who was by his will appointed guardian of his son; secondly, he was a Tockenham man, for while at the time of his death John of Corsham had property in many places, he had two furnished dwellings, one at Tockenham, one at Corsham, both of which, with their furniture, he in his will desires may be kept up for the use of his son when he comes of age; thirdly, we know the descendants of John Danvers of Dauntsey and his wife, Ann Stradling, and of them the only one who fulfils the above-mentioned requirements is John Danvers, brother to Richard, and son of John Danvers of Tockenham and his wife Margaret. True, as John Danvers died in the year 1556, his son John must have been of mature age when, in the year 1611, he married Susan Ayliffe. It is, however, clear from the Corsham Manor Court Roll that in the year 1600 John of Corsham had become a man of position and property, and as he died in the year 1626, he need not at the time have been a very old man, though born well within the lifetime of the first John of Tockenham, who died in the year 1556. We know from his brother Richard's will that this John Danvers was alive in the year 1602. We have notes of the Corsham Manor Court Roll, which do not, however, go back farther than the year 1600. The earliest of these, dated September 11, 42 Elizabeth (1600), refers to John Danvers of Sherston Pinkney (ten miles from Corsham), and many subsequent notices in the roll refer to him. From these notices, which include mention of several holdings which he enjoyed, it is certain that John Danvers of Sherston Pinkney is the individual who was also known as of Corsham, and who in the year 1611 married Susan Ayliffe, daughter of John Ayliffe. Further, it is clear from the roll that this John Danvers died in the year 1626, leaving as his heir his son John Danvers, who was not of age at the time of his father's death, and was placed by his father's will under the guardianship of Charles Danvers of Baynton. We also learn from the same source that John, the younger, died in the year 1636, leaving a widow, Anne Danvers, and a son and heir, a child, the third John Danvers of Corsham.

---

* Knighted at Hampton Court, November 17, 1607.—Metcalfe's 'Book of Knights.'

† Wilts Fine, 9 James I., Pasch.

John Ayliffe,* the father of Susan, wife of John Danvers, was grandson to Sir John Ayliffe, a famous surgeon in his day. Sir John was born about the year 1490 of humble origin; in the year 1538 he was master of the company of Barber-Surgeons, and surgeon to King Henry VIII. Having cured the King of a fistula, he was rewarded by the gift of the manor of Gryttenham, which had belonged to the Abbey of Malmesbury. On March 3, 1549, Ayliffe was knighted by Edward VI. at Westminster, and relinquished his profession as surgeon to become a merchant. In the year 1550 he was translated to the Grocers' Company, of which, in the year 1556, he was Upper Warden. He married Isabel Buckell, of Warwickshire, and by her had two sons and two daughters. His son John and his grandson George were both knighted. In Holbein's great picture of Henry VIII. presenting a charter to the Barber-Surgeons, which is now in the hall of the company, Ayliffe, in gold chain and ring, is the second figure on the King's left hand. Ayliffe died in the year 1556, and was buried in the city church of St. Michael Bassishaw, where a marble monument and a rhyming inscription mark his grave.

---

* For an interesting history of John Ayliffe, see Mr. Sydney Young's 'Annals of the Barber-Surgeons of London.' London, 1890.

Sir John, son of the first John Ayliffe of Gryttenham and Brinkworth, married Susan, daughter of William Harris of Essex, and their son, another John Ayliffe, married Elizabeth Harrison of London. They had five sons and four daughters, of whom Susan would appear to have been the youngest, and it is therefore unlikely that she brought any dower to John Danvers. Gryttenham manor house, for many generations the home of the Ayliffe* family, is now a ruin.

John Danvers (the first of Corsham) was evidently a wealthy man, for amongst the names of persons such as are thought fit to lend money to the King in the year 1611,† John Danvers of Corsham is noted for a payment of £25, one of the largest payments made in the county, and the Corsham Court Roll bears evidence to the extent of his landed property, Corsham, Monks, Crowne Park, Sherston Pinkeney, Meare, Auldfield, Whitley Hill, Curle Croft, Woodlands, Thingley Bridge, Neston, Pepperwhites, Furshill, Moorleaye, Overmoorleaye, Herdswell, Brick Close, Sayes, Newcrofte, Byde Mill Close, Pound Meade, Nott apud Ladbrook, Rowlands, Dadshill, are all mentioned as places which were his property or within which he held land.

---

* 'Ayliffes of Grittenham,' by the Rev. Canon Jackson, 'Wilts Archæological Journal,' vol. xxi., p. 194.

† 'Wilts Archæological Journal,' vol. ii., p. 186.

John, the only son of John Danvers and his wife Susan, was baptized in Corsham Church on June 14, 1612; and at a court held March 16, 16 James I., John Danvers senior bailiff of the manor, John his son was admitted.

The will of John Danvers, the father, was made in April, 1625 (Skinner, 53), and proved in April, 1627. His wife was apparently dead, for he makes no mention of her, and he leaves a legacy to Mrs. Hayward, of Melksham, for her care of him during illness. He leaves legacies to his servants, and to the preacher that shall preach at his funeral; all the rest of his property he leaves to his son John, and makes him his sole executor. But should he die before his son comes of age, then his well-beloved cousin, Charles Danvers of Baynton, is to act as executor and guardian during his son's minority. All his goods in the houses in which he lives at Corsham and Tockenham are to remain for the use of his son.

Amongst the minutes of the Corsham Roll of October 20, 1625, is one to the effect that John Danvers had died since the last court, and that his son and heir was John Danvers, whose guardian was Charles Danvers. Several entries follow in which John Danvers is mentioned; and at last, in the minutes of a court held October 19, 13 Charles I., is one to the effect that John Danvers was dead, and that John Danvers, his son, was his heir, and that Anne, his widow, ought to enjoy. The minute names the many places in which the late John Danvers had property. John Danvers left no will, and his estate was administered to by his wife, Anne, on May 13, 1637. John Danvers was only twenty-five years of age when he died. In the Corsham register, October 23, 1636, Charles, son of John Danvers, is baptized, but we learn nothing further regarding him. Mary, daughter of John Danvers, deceased, was buried in 1642. The widow, Anne Danvers, married again to Colonel William Eyre, of Neston, who, with his father, William, is mentioned in the Court Rolls in the year 1612. By her second husband, Ann Eyre had a daughter, Anne, who was born in the year 1639 (Marshall's 'Wilts Visitation').

Did John Danvers (the second of Corsham) marry Anne, daughter of Charles Danvers of Baynton? The evidence in the affirmative is strong, and is as follows. The 'Visitation of

Wilts,' written and extended about the period of the marriage, states that Mrs. Danvers was the daughter of Charles Danvers of Baynton, and that after his death she married William Eyre. Further, we know that Anne was the Christian name of John Danvers' wife, and we know that he was the ward of Charles Danvers, and that the latter in his will mentions his daughter, Anne, and her husband, John Danvers. We may add that the late Canon Jackson, who is our best authority regarding the Danvers family of the period, had, as his MS. notes show, the question under special consideration, and his final view regarding it was in the affirmative. We must, too, remember that Charles Danvers was a match-maker, as is evidenced by his conduct regarding the marriage of his daughter Jane with George Herbert; and that he had nine daughters, for whom he must have been anxious to provide husbands. The only evidence against the match is based upon a consideration of the dates of the birth of John Danvers and that of the will of Charles Danvers. John Danvers was baptized at Corsham in June, 1612, and his parents were married in March of the previous year; while Charles Danvers made his will, in which he speaks of Anne and her husband, in October, 1626, when John Danvers was not fifteen years of age.

John Danvers of Corsham, third in succession of the name, married, in the year 1662, Dorothy, daughter of William Stafford, Esq., of Marlewood, near Thornbury, Gloucester. The license to marry was issued from the Archbishop's Court on May 30, 1662: 'John Danvers of Corsham to Dorothy Stafford, at St. Mary's, Savoy, or St. Clement Danes.' Dorothy's mother's name was Ursula Moore. Her father was the son of another William Stafford and his wife Anne Grimes. This William was the son of Sir William Stafford and his wife Dorothy Stafford, who was daughter to Henry Lord Stafford and Ursula Pole, daughter of Sir Richard Pole and Margaret Plantagenet.*

Mrs. Dorothy Danvers was a person of some note in her day—a pronounced Jacobite, yet a good deal about the Court, and was dresser to the Queen of George II.

John Danvers made his will, when infirm in body, in

---

* For Sir Richard Pole, his family and marriages, see p. 240.

January, 1699 (N.S.), and it was proved in the following June (Pett, 90). He bequeaths to his daughter, Anne Danvers, £200; to his daughter, Dorothy Danvers, £400; to his daughter, Lucy Danvers, £300; and to his daughters Margaret and Amy, both minors, £400 each. He has surrendered his land in Corsham to his brother-in-law, John Stafford of Morlewood, and to William Hirton of Broughton, to be sold to pay these legacies. His dear wife Dorothy is his executrix. He mentions his son William.

The will of Dorothy Danvers was made in October, 1717, and proved in February, 1719 (N.S.) (Browning, 26). She calls herself widow of John Danvers of Monks, Corsham, and desires that she may be buried within the rayles and in the grave of her dear husband in Corsham churchyard. She leaves to her eldest daughter, Anne Whetenhall (wife of John Whetenhall, Archdeacon of Cork), four broad pieces of gold and her father's picture. To her daughter, Dorothy Price (wife of John Price of Bristol), her silver caudle pot and porringer. To her daughter, Amy Sheppard* (wife of Mr. Richard Sheppard), a feather bed marked with a crown, with bolster and pair of pillows, green wrought curtains, vallences, white quilt, bedstead and blankets, and a pair of best Holland sheets and pillow-cases. To her daughter, Yeate (wife of the Rev. Cornelius Yeate, Vicar of Islington and Archdeacon of Wilts), the rest of her household goods. To her son-in-law, Dr. Tilly (Rector of Witham, Berks, of Albury and of Godington, Oxon, domestic chaplain to Earl of Abingdon, D.D., 1711), two pieces of gold. To her son John Price the same. To Niece Katherine Stafford a mourning-ring. Mr. Cornelius Yeate is the executor. 'A crown apiece to four men that lays her in her grave.' To her son, William, one piece of gold.

Mragaret Tilly, fourth daughter of John and Dorothy, died July 1, 1717, aged thirty-six, and was buried in Rycote Church, near the grave of her distant cousin, Eleanor, Countess of Abingdon, to whose husband Dr. Tilly was domestic chaplain (see Chapter VII., Rycote).

---

* St. Dionis Back church, March 20, 1711 (N.S.), Mr. Richard Sheppard, widower, to Amy Danvers of St. Mary's, Islington, spinster. At the same church, December 27, 1710, John Price of Bristol to Dorothy Danvers of the same city, spinster. Amy seems to have married a second time, for in Thorpe's 'Registrum Roffensis' is recorded the death, in 1730, of Amy Stylman, daughter of John Danvers of Monks, aged forty-five.

Besides the children now mentioned, John Danvers had a son John, who went abroad and was never heard of, and a son William, who was lost at sea.

William, the son and heir, married in 1701 Anne, only daughter of John Tanner of Swainswick, Bath, who died without issue.* His second wife was Elizabeth Osborne, to whom he was married in Corsham Church on June 20, 1709. William Danvers sold the Monks property in the year 1698. By his second wife, William Danvers had four sons—Antworth, born 1710; William, born in 1711; Edward, born 1716; a second William, born 1722—all died young. The second William died in the year 1740, and was buried at Islington; a tablet† to his memory was placed upon the wall of the old parish church near to a monument erected to the memory of his uncle, the Rev. Cornelius Yeate. William was the last male representative of the Danvers family of Tockenham. In addition to the sons just mentioned, William Danvers had five daughters, Betty, Susan, Bridget, Jane and Decima. Decima married Richard Pick, and died without issue. Bridget married Richard Ward of Wick and afterwards of Upper Hazel, Gloucester, and they had issue; the other daughter died unmarried. On one of the pillars in Swainswick Church is a tablet to the memory of Jane Danvers, died July 5, 1801, aged eighty-two years, 'seventy of which were passed in this parish in the exercise to benevolence of her poor neighbours and in social intercourse with the more affluent.'

Bridget Danvers and Richard Ward had six sons—Francis, who married Mary Brickdale; John, married to Jane Dowell; and Danvers, married to Florence Hill; all these had issue. Richard, married to Mary Adams, had no issue. William and Thomas died *s.p.* Francis Ward and his wife Mary had three sons, of whom Richard married Jane Ridout and had four sons and two daughters; one of the sons, Francis, married Eliza Welsford, and had issue. Another son, Charles, married

---

* There is a tablet to her memory on the wall of Swainswick Church.

† Lewis's 'Islington,' p. 220; will of Rev. Cornelius Yeate (Shaller, 97).

Emily Welsford, and had issue. One of the daughters, Mary Jane, married Robert Sidgwick, and has issue.

Danvers Ward, who married Florence Hill, had issue three sons—William, Danvers, and Charles; and two daughters—Ann and Florence. Florence married Thomas Crossman, and had issue three sons and five daughters. Of the sons, Edward married M. Marsh, and had issue four sons and one daughter. These and other members of the family are all descended from the union of Dorothy Stafford, fifth in descent from the marriage of Sir Richard Pole and Margaret Plantagenet, Countess of Salisbury, with John Danvers, fifth in descent from John Stradling and his wife, Alice Langford,* who was the first wife of Sir Richard Pole.

---

* See pp. 230-242.

FINIS.

INDEX.

A.

Abarowe, John and Elizabeth, 276, 280
Abingdon, Earl and Countess of, 216, 297
,, Thomas de, 62
Accounts, Parish, of Culworth, Chap. XI.
Adderbury, 97, 122
,, Danvers of, 528-532
,, Doyley of, 518
,, Sir Richard, of Donnington Castle, 510
Akenore, John and Alice, 322
Albo Monasterio, Reginald de, 76
Alcryngton, 112
Aldworth Church, monuments in, 509
Ale, parish, 369, 386
Alehouse, licensed, 1626, 536
Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, 2, 10, 11
All Souls' College, Oxford, 101, 105
Alryngton Lee, 122
Althyn, William, 84
Alvers, or Auvers, de, of Normandy, 28-32
,, or Auvers, village and church of, 31
,, Roland de, 33, 37, 38
,, Ralph de, 37, 38, 408, 492
,, Robert de, of Northampton, 27, 28, 31, 38
Alvers, Ralph, Roger, Almar, in Bucks and Oxon, 37
Alvers, Roland de, of the Liber Niger, 29, 44, 492
Alvers, Roland de, of the Liber Rubeus, 42, 493
Alvers, Robert de, of the Liber Niger, 40, 13
Alvers, Auvers, Hugh de, of the Liber Niger, 42
Alwold, Richard, 184
Amand, St., manor of, 97
Amaury, Robert and Roger, 76, 79
Amersden, 128
Andrews, St., Church of, Holborn, 434
,, St. John and Elizabeth, 532
,, Richard, 110, 337, 374
,, Richard and Justice (Danvers), 360, 365
Anne, John and Agnes, 354
Anuers de, family, of Tetsworth, 14-26
Archer, of Tysoe, 177
Arderne, Sir John, 225
,, Sir Peter, 111
Arnold, Abigail, 405
,, John, 436
,, Stoughton and Frances, 431
Arundell, family of, 234-236
Ashhurst, Sir William, of Waterstock, 188, 226
Ashhurst, Rev. Canon J. H., 226
Aston, Torold and Apthorp, villages of, 498, 503
Aston-in-the-walls, 122
Astropp, John, 270
Atkins, Robert, 263
Atmore, William, 185
Attchul, John, 487, 496
Aubrey, family of, 541, 542
Audley, Lord, 281
Austin, Robert, 405
Auvers, de, family, of Tetsworth, 14-26
Auvers, Dionis de, of Little Marlow, 42
Ayliffe family, 543, 544
Aynhoe, Guy and Agnes, 321

B.

Baas, Richard, 143
Baff, John, 265, 268
Bagot, Alice, 200
Bainbridge, Christopher, 169
Baldington, Thomas, and family, 143, 150, 151
Baldwin, Brightwell, 225
Ballard, Thomas, 107
Banbury, Town and Church of, 85
,, Castle, 85, 420, 421
,, Lane, 333
Bands, John and Elizabeth, 283
Barbe, St., Sir John, Mary, and Isabel, 247
Barbour, or Barber, family, 468
Bardesey, Edmund, 265, 268
Bardolph, Robert and Amicia, 232
Barentyne family, 114, 115, 161, 281
Barker, Sir Robert, 173
,, Sir Edward, 179
,, Sir Christopher and William, 346
,, Robert and Mary, 346
Barlow, Bishop, examines Dr. Harris, 417
Barnard, Francis and Magdalen, 520
Baron, William, 113
,, Nicholas, 299
Bartholomew's, St., the Less, Danvers' monument in, 113
Basset, William, 499
,, Fulk, 50, 55
Bath, Daniel Danvers of, 459
Batter, John, 172
Battersea, Danvers of, 436, 448
,, Smith, family of, 438, 448
Battle Abbey Roll, the, 27, 28
Bauceyn, 236
Bavent de, family of, 231
Bayliffe, Henry and Ann, 534
Baynton, Sir Henry and Lucy, 285
,, Edward and Andrew, 262
Baynton, Danvers family of, 533-538
,, ,, pedigree of, 539
,, manor of, 533
Beauchamp family in Dorney and Little Marlow, 490, 492, 495
Beauchamp, Guy de and Alice, 316
Beaumont, John and Alice, 330

Beche, de la, family of, 508
,, John de la, and Isabel and Alice, 207
Bedford, Duke of, 99, 103
Beesley, Mr., account of Danvers family, 87
,, ,, history of Banbury, Chap. IV.
Bella Aqua, Godfrey de, 493
Bells of Culworth Church, 371, 388, 389
Beneyt, Richard and Emma, 322
Benger, Sir Thomas and Dorothy, 360
Benstede, William, 394
Bereford, Hugh and Robert, 79
Beresford, Anthony, 391
Berkerolles, family of, 245-247
Berkshire, Danvers of, 497
Bermyngham, William de, 58
Bertie, Lord Montague and Lord James, 297
,, Hon. Charles, 479
Berton, Thomas de, 77
Betts, Thomas, 371
Bevamye, or Bevanye, 236, 278
Beverley family, 229-232
Bible, the great, 374, 380
Bicester, Richard Clarke of, 520
,, and Richard Danvers, 123
Biderman, G. A., 263
Biker, Thomas, 341
Bikestrop, Walter de, 24
Bisham Church, 286
Bissett, George, 263
Black Death, the, 82
Blanchminster, family of, 236
Bledlow, Elizabeth, 518, 529
Bleke, John, 139
Blisworth, Danvers of, 523
Blount, George and Ann, 305, 346
,, Margaret, 539
,, William, 52, 55, 77, 78
,, Walter and Elizabeth, 391, 392
Bloxham, church of, 122
,, manor of, 312
,, John of, 70
Bodendon, Robert, 79
Bodicote, 113
,, W. de, 55
Bolingbroke, Viscount, 263
Bona Danvers, or Pole, 241
Bonde, Thomas, of Tockenham, 541
Books of the church of Culworth, 377, 383
Borhunte, de, family of, 505, 506
Borlase family, 487
Bosco, de, family of, 496
Botiller, Alan, 495
,, John, 126
,, ,, and Elizabeth, 161
,, Ralph, 149
,, Richard, Thomas, Isabel, Sybil, 214, 215
Botiller, Thomas and Richard, 301
,, Walter, 204, 206
,, ,, and Agnes, 261, 262
ottele, Beneyt de, 321, 322
ouere, William de, 340
oughton, John, 226
,, William, 187
Boulogne, counts and family of, 309
Bourton, Great, village of, 66
,, Little, village of, and church, 51, 63, 65
Bourton, Alexander de, 66
,, Thomas de, 52
Bowade, William and Alice, 317, 322
Bower, William and Elizabeth, 537
Bowes, John, 173
Bradenstoke, John, 261
,, ,, and Alice de, 203
,, Priory, register of, 203
,, Russells of, 203-205
Brancester, Agnes, 84
,, family in Hustings Rolls of City, 91
Brancester, John de, and Margaret, 89
,, ,, of Berks, 89
,, ,, Vice-Chancellor, 90
,, manor house of, 88
,, Richard, of Rothele, 92
,, Thomas de, 330
,, ,, and Agnes, of Culworth, 90
Brancester, town of, 89
Brandon, Thomas, 313
Braose, William and Matilda de, 312
Brasbridge, Dr. Thomas, 416, 521
Brascy, Gilbert de, 76
Bray, de, Charter to Templars, 493
,, Edmund and Susan, 472
,, of Waterperry, 205-207
,, Robert and Richard, 235
,, Sir Edmund, 345, 378
Breknoke family, 156, 167, 173
Bremelham Chapel, patrons of, 261
,, manor of, 228, 232
Breton family, 210, 211
,, Katherine, 210
Briant, Abbé J., of Binniville, 29, 30
Bridges, Beata, and family, 406
Bristowe, William, 262
Brocas, Sir Bernard and Mary, 506
,, William, 512
Brockett, Sir John and Elizabeth, 391
Brockysbourne, Sir Edward and Eleanor, 354
Brodrick, L., 263
Broughton Castle, 324
,, Church and monuments, 325
,, John, 153, 324
,, Lincoln, 523
,, manor of, 312, 323
Browne, Anthony, of Broadchalk, 541
,, John and Alice, 512
,, Robert, 151
,, William, Robert, and Constance, 143
Broxbourne Church, monuments in, 147, 148
Brudenel, Drew, 301
,, Robert, 193, 265, 268
Bruerne Abbey, 61, 62, 80
Bruges, Will de, 24
Bruilli, John de, 22
Bruley, arms of, 220
,, family, descent of, Chap. VII.
,, ,, memorials of, in Waterstock Church, 166
Bruley, Joan, 97, 202
,, of Henton, 223
,, of Waterstoke, 57, 218, and Chap. VII.
,, pedigree of, 224
,, William and Agnes, 225
Bruley-Aston, Warwick, 186
Brydges, Sir E., on Battle Abbey Roll, 27
Buckenhall, 128
Buckland, Elena, 533
Buckley, Ralph, 363
Buckull, Robert, 277
Buknell, 128
Bulehe, Nicholas de, 43
Burgess, Thomas, 263
Burnaby, family of, 115
,, George and Alice, 113, 115
Burnham Abbey acquires Dorney, 491
,, and Bream, manors of, 322, 323
,, Bernard de, 493
,, John, Walter, Felicia, 330, 332
,, Walter and Felicia, 111
Burrows, Professor, 'History of the Brocas Family,' 506
Burton, Thomas, 162
Buryton, Simon, 113
Bustard, John, 390
Butler, Margaret, 400
Butyngden, 203
Byfield, 97, 122

Byfield, Verneys of, 194
Byrkhede, John, 107

C.

Cade's Jack, insurrection, 108, 311
Cane, le, at Dorney, 490
Canons Ashby Priory, 201, 337, 352
Carentan, town of, 29
Carey, Sir Edward and Elizabeth, 286
Carhill, Sir William, 346
Carminow, family of, 235
Carpenter family, 322
Carrington, William, 262
Carswell, J., 80
Castlecombe, manor of, 236
Cave, Sir Thomas and Elizabeth, 169, 177, 188
Cave, Sir Thomas, 476
Caversfield, 119, 128
,, Church, and brasses in, 132, 133
Cestreton, Bard' de, 76
Chalgrave, Robert and David of, 161
,, Quartermaynes and Barentynes of, 161
Chamberhouse, Danvers, of, 175
,, manor house of, 178
Chamberlyn, Richard, William and Ann, 174, 301
Chamberlyn, Sybil, 171, 173
Chambers, Michael and Ann, 531, 532
,, Timothy and Mary, 361
,, Robert and Elizabeth, 321, 349
Champion, 128
Champneys, William and Agnes, 317
Chandos, Duke of, 406
Chanfy, Galfr' de, 76
Charters, Danvers, of Eynesham Abbey, 76
,, ,, of Thame Abbey, 25
Chartulary of Bradenstoke, 203
,, of Eynesham Abbey, 51
,, of Stanford Preceptory, 493
,, of Thame Abbey, 6, 7
Charwelton, 122, 112, 195 [illegible]
Chattock, Richard and ~~Robert~~, 361
Chaucombe Priory, charters of, 50, 56, 66, 62
Chaucombe, Robert de, 57
Chauncy, William, 339, 345
Chebrey, Sir Thomas and Isabel, 233, 487, 496
Cheney, Lawrence, 147
Cheney, John, 278
Chercherley, John, 143
Cheshire, Richard, 263
Chester, Thomas Danvers, a knight of, 503
Chetwode, manor house, 211
,, Robert, Ralph and William, 211
Chevauchesul, at Tetsworth, Chap. I.
,, Emma and William (Danvers), 500
Chevauchesul family, 15, 17
,, Pedigree, 19
,, Robert, in Swalecliffe, 62
Chicheley, Archbishop, 103, 104
Chillenden, Edmund and Elizabeth, 432, 435, 437
Chilton, Danvers, 508
Chilton, Oxon, 298
Chilworth, 168
Chinnor, 161
Chippenham, Robert de, 494
Chiselhampton, 15, 41, 179, 417, 420
Chulewrd, Walter, 24
Churchdown, Gloucester, Danvers' monument, 542
Churchwardens, 367, 381
Cirencester, Richard Danvers of, 530, 540
Clarke, Sir E., and Dorothy, 532
Clark's 'Muniments of Glamorgan,' 246
Clarson, Revs. John and Thomas, 410
Clavering, Essex, 283
Cleaveland, Duchess, of Battle Abbey Roll, 27
Cleaveland, John, Royalist Poet, 436
,, Richard and Susanna (Danvers), 435, 436
Cleaveland, 435
Cleet, John, Richard, Alice, 509, 510
Clement, William, 263
Clerk, Nicholas, of Rycote, 171
Clifford, Robert and Isabel, 57
,, Walter de, 57
Clopton family, 151, 152-154
Cobb, Messrs., at Colthorpe House, 88
Cobb, Sir William, of Adderbury, 420
Cockshutt, Sarah, 456
Cogges, Samson, Prior of, 18
Cokayne, O'Brien, 476
,, G. E., Esq., 346
Colbrook, 179
,, Robert, 148
Coleby, Rad. de, 24
Collyer, William, 370
Colshill family, 234, 236
,, Shield of, in Dauntsey Church, 235
,, St. Clare, and Liskeard, 279
,, Walter and Peter, 261
Colthorpe manor house, 84, 88
Colville, Henry de, 57
Combe Abbey, 173
Compton, Sir William, defends Banbury Castle, 420
Compton, Verneys of. See Verney
Cooke, Christopher, 338
,, Thomas, 321, 322, 348
Coombe, 168
Coope, John, 339
Cope, Anthony, 357, 522
,, ,, the younger, 431
,, Sir Anthony and Ursula, 417
,, Sir John, William and Edward, 174, 345, 346
Corbet, Sir Robert and Elizabeth, 160
Coroner, office of, 499
Corsham, Danvers of, 544
,, Manor Court Roll, 543-545
Corston, 202, 203
,, Chapel, patrons of, 261
,, manor of, 97
,, Fitz-Ellis of, 203
,, manor, sale of, 206
Corve, Alice, 332
,, John and Alice, 110
Cotesford, Roger, 125
,, Roger, Thomas, Katherine, 135
,, Thomas and Alice, 96
Coton, 110
Cotterell, William, 262
Cottesmore, John, 114, 162, 512
,, John and Amicia, 225
,, William, 164
,, William and Alice, 518
Coulston, manor of, 533
,, Lambe, family of, 533
Courtenay family, 278
,, Margaret and Thomas (Danvers), 278
Courtenay, William, 235
Coutances, Bishop of, 28, 31
Coutts, Susan, 393
,, Thomas and Elizabeth, 393
Credy, John and Joan, 206, 214
Crispin, Miles, 36
Croft, Sir Richard and Elizabeth, 313
Croke, Richard and Robert, 168-170, 190
,, Sir George, 188, 226
Cromer, William and Elizabeth, 311
Cromwell, John de, 57
,, Thomas, 345

Crooke, Isabel and Samuel (Danvers), 453
Cropperi, Simon de, 57, 62, 64, 136
Croppry, Thomas de, 194
Cropredy, battle of, 474
,, church, 137
,, manor house, 136
,, village, 135, 179, 180
,, family of, 136
,, Phil de, 50
Crossman, Thomas and Florence, 549
Crowlton, 110, 494
Croxford, Joan, 107
Croyser, William and Edith, 322
Culworth village, 111
,, history of, 329
,, church of, 336
,, church goods, 339, 375, 381, 383
,, residents in, A.D. 1543, 342
,, purchased by Sir Robert Danvers, 110
Culworth, rectors and vicars of, 340
,, MSS. at British Museum, 331
,, entail of manors of, 307
,, parish accounts of, Chap. XI.
,, ordinances and rules for, 385
,, manor house, 335, 482
,, Manor Court Roll, 342
,, freeholders, 353
,, skirmish at, 334
,, Richard and Robert de, 337
,, William and Richard de, 329
Cunningham, Daniel, John, Susan, 456
Curtis, Elizabeth, 468
Customs, collection of, 118
Cutcherwike, 179

D.

Danvers pedigrees, list of, xxiii
,, in England prior to Conquest, 44
,, charters to Thame Abbey, 19, 20, 23-26
Danvers charters to Eynsham Abbey, 75-80, 93
Danvers family petition for recognition as founder's kin to William of Wykeham, 305
Danvers family, members of, *circa* A.D. 1620, 403
Danvers family, records of, in Waterstock Church, 166
Danvers, derivation of the name, 46
,, of Auvers, or Alvers, Cotentin, 28-31
,, of Little Marlow and Dorney, 35-45, 484-496
Danvers of Tetsworth, 1-22, 41-55
,, of Bourton, 37, 40, 55-69
,, of Ipswell, 69-116
,, of Prestcote, 96-101, 116-122, 297
,, of Colthorpe, 84-101, 177, 516-528
,, of Waterstock, 97-101, 155-188
,, of Dauntsey, 227-305
,, of Culworth, 110, 121, 306-386, 471-483
Danvers of Swithland, 83
,, of Bucks and Berks, 484-515
,, of Upton and Ratley, Warwick, 177, 516-526
Danvers of Adderbury, 528-532
,, of Baynton, 533-538
,, of Tockenham and Corsham, 538-548
,, of Worminghall and Rougham, 526-528
Danvers,* Agnes, prioress and patron of Little Marlow Priory, 489
Danvers, Agnes, daughter of John of Prestcote, her four husbands, 143-154
Danvers, Alice, daughter of Richard Cleet, 509
Danvers, Augustus, Captain, 470
,, Dame Anne, of Chamberhouse, 175, 181; her gift to Sion House, 182
Danvers, Dame Anne, of Dauntsey, Chap. VIII.; her marriage, 264; her monument, 253
Danvers, Anthony, of Horley, Chap. XIII.; Elizabeth, wife of, Chap. XIII. and Appendix; leaves Horley for London, 431; appeals to the Lords for admission of his son to Winchester College, 422
Danvers, Sir Charles, son of John of Dauntsey, 286-291; fatal quarrel with Henry Long, 287, 288
Danvers, Charles, of Liverpool, and wife, Eunice, 454, 456; admitted to freedom of Liverpool, 454
Danvers, Charles, of Horley, and wives, Maria and Susan, 414, 433
Danvers, Charles, of Baynton, 533-537
,, ,, Recorder of Devizes, 298, 299, 537
Danvers, Charles, and John, of London, 298, 299, 538
Danvers, Charles, of Kensington, 538
,, Dorothy (Pulteney), 471
,, ,, (Raynsford), 354
,, ,, (Stafford), 546
,, Daniel, of Culworth, March Baldon, and Horley, Chap. XII.; house in Culworth, 395; marries Susanna Pope, 394; baptisms of his children, 395; in his father's will and inquisition, 358, 359
Danvers, Daniel, of Liverpool, his birth and schooldays, 413, 430; in his mother's will, 435; in his sister Cleaveland's will, 436; his first and second wives, 451
Danvers, Daniel (?), of Liverpool, 453; marries Elizabeth Hood, 455; his will, 456
Danvers, Daniel, of Bath, 457
,, ,, of Battersea, 438
,, ,, Dr., of Northampton, 406
,, ,, of Lower Worton and Thorpe-Mandeville, 479
Danvers, Edmund, of Chilton, Berks, 504-507
Danvers, Edward Fuller, 466, 470
,, Lady Elizabeth, of Dauntsey (Neville), 285; her statement regarding quarrel with the Long family, 289, 302
Danvers, Elizabeth (Langston), 119, 135
,, ,, wife of John, of Hornsey, 461
Danvers, Elizabeth, daughter of John, of Hornsey, 466
Danvers, Elizabeth, wife of Anthony, Chap. XIII. and Appendix; will of, 434
Danvers, Elizabeth, of Bath (Hood), 458
,, Frances, married Thomas Flower Ellis, 467
Danvers, Francis, of Swithlands, 346
,, Frederick Dawes, 461
,, ,, Samuel, 466
,, ,, Charles, 466
,, Geoffrey, of Bourton, 37, 39, 41
,, ,, son of Robert, 50, 54, 79
,, George, of Banbury and Upton, 184, 517
Danvers, George, of Upton and Stanwell, 524
,, ,, of Cripplegate, 506
,, ,, of Adderbury, 528, 534
,, Isabel, daughter of Simon Danvers, 67
Danvers, Isabel, wife of John Danvers (de la Lee), 69
Danvers, Isabel (Docwray), 181, 184, 189
,, John, of Culworth, and his wife, Dorothy Raynesford, 350-361

---

* The names of many of the less prominent members of the Danvers family are not inserted in the index.

Danvers, John, of Hornsey, 454, 456-459; his wife, Elizabeth Hardy, 461; his monument, 461; his descendants, 463-470
Danvers, John, of March Baldon, 395-399; arms on his monument, 400
Danvers, John, of Battersea, 436; at Winchester, 427; his wife, Susan Smith, 448
Danvers, John, of Tockenham, and wife, Margaret Blount, 538
Danvers, John, of Corsham, and wife, Susan Ayliffe, 542
Danvers, John (2), of Corsham, and wife, Anne Danvers, 545, 546
Danvers, John (3), of Corsham, and wife, Dorothy Stafford, 546, 547
Danvers, Henry, son of John, of Prestcote, 192, 327; suit with Sir Richard Pole, 237-300; marries Beatrice Verney, 190
Danvers, Sir Henry, Earl of Danby, 291-293, 302
Danvers, Henry, son of Sir John, of Chelsea, 296
Danvers, Henry, of Baynton, and wife, Joan Lambe, 533
Danvers, Joan (Frowyke), 113, 115, 116
,, ,, Dame, wife of William of Wynterbourne, 511-515
Danvers, Sir John, of Dauntsey, Chap. VIII., 138; marriage of, 264; tomb of, 250; will and inquisition of, 270
Danvers, John, of Colthorpe and Prestcote, 95-101
Danvers, John, son of Simon, of Bourton, 69-74, 81-84
Danvers, John, D.D., son of John, of Prestcote, 141, 142
Danvers, John, the last, of Prestcote, 297
,, Sir John, of Chelsea, 293
,, ,, of Dauntsey, and wife, Elizabeth Neville, 284
Danvers, John, of Swithlands, 297, 299
,, Sir John, the last, of Swithlands, 458
Danvers, John, of Upton, 520
,, Sir Juland, K.C.S.I., 463
,, Meriel, 481
,, Nicholas, of Bourton, 52, 55
,, Petronilla, 65
,, Sir Ralph, of Little Marlow, 39, 492; gives Dorney to Neyrunt, 490; marries sister of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, 38
Danvers, Ralph, son of Robert, of Bourton, 52, 55
Danvers, Ralph, of Winterbourne, 498
,, Richard, son of Sir John, of Dauntsey, his arms in Temple Church, 279
Danvers, Richard, of Banbury and Prestcote, 84, *et seq.;* charter to Eynsham, 79, 93; marries Agnes Brancestre, 84
Danvers, Richard, son of John, of Prestcote, 116, *et seq.;* Collector of Customs, 117; in Parliament, 117; marries Elizabeth Langston, 119
Danvers, Richard, of Prestcote, jun., 138, 139
,, ,, of Tockenham, 540
,, ,, of Berks, son of Thomas, 503, 505, 507
Danvers, Robert, of Northampton, 31, 28, 38
,, ,, of Auvers, 29, 30
,, ,, of Bourton and Shuckburgh, 14, 39, 40, 44
Danvers, Robert, of Tetsworth, son of William, 17, 20, 22-24, 48, *et seq.;* charter to Eynsham Abbey, 52, 76; to Thame Abbey, 23-26
Danvers, Robert, of Bourton, 61-66, 80
,, ,, of Winterbourne, marries Muriel Dunstanville, 499; Coroner of Berks, 499
Danvers, Robert, of Berks, son of Edmund, of Winterbourne, marries Alice de la Beche, 508
Danvers, Robert, son of Augustus, 470 — Robert son of Edward 470
Danvers, Sir Robert, of Culworth, 102-116; Recorder of London, 107, 109, 311; connection with foundation of All Souls' College, 106; raised to Bench, 109; purchases Culworth, 121, 122
Danvers, Mrs. Sarah, of Liverpool, 454
,, Dame Sybil, of Waterstock, 155, 165, 170-175, 187
Danvers, Silvester, 275, 276, 282-284; sister of, married Jones *alias* Valence, 534
Danvers, Sir Samuel, marries Ann Pope, 473-479
Danvers, Samuel (1), of Culworth, 357, 358, 361-366
Danvers, Samuel, son and heir of the above, 363
Danvers, Samuel, son of Anthony, 413, 437, 439-447, 449
Danvers, Samuel, son of William, of London, 405, 406, 432
Danvers, Samuel, of Liverpool, son of Daniel, 453, 454
Danvers, Simon, of Bourton, son of Robert, 66-69, 79
Danvers, Thomas, of Winterbourne, 500, 505
,, ,, of Powderham, son of Sir John, of Dauntsey, marries Margaret Courtenay, 255, 278, 306
Danvers, Sir Thomas, of Waterstock, 155-175; his wives, Fiennes and Fowler, 155; concerned in foundation of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxon, 157
Danvers, William, of Tetsworth, 17-22; marries Emma Chevauchesul, 17
Danvers, William (2), of Tetsworth, son of Robert, 54-57, 77, 79
Danvers charter to Eynsham Abbey, 77
Danvers, William, of Little Marlow, 487, 495-497
Danvers, William, of Winterbourne, son of Edmund, 510-515; he and his wife, Dame Joan, endow colleges of Winchester, and of St. Mary Magdalen, Oxon, 512, 513
Danvers, William, son of Thomas, the Sheriff, 505-507; in right of his wife, Mary de Borhunte, holds manor of Little Weldon, 505
Danvers, William, of Culworth, son of Sir John and Ann, 274, 276, 306, 342, 344; marries Elizabeth Fiennes, 327
Danvers, Capt. William, tomb in Banbury Church, 86
Danvers, Sir William, of Chamberhouse and Ratley, 175-190
Danvers, Sir William, of Tockenham, 542
,, William, of Corsham, 548
,, Rev. William, of Adderbury and Skevington, 532
Dale, William, and Elizabeth (Danvers), 141
,, family of, 141
Damory, Richard, and Roger, 503, 504
Danby, John, of Northampton, 418
,, Henry, Earl of, 291
Danefeld, Bucks, 128
Danesmoor, Battle of, 333, 334
Danyell, John, 262
Darrell, or Dayrell, family, 169, 190, 512
Dauntsey Village, church and manor house, 227, 248, 249, 260
Dauntsey, Rectors and patrons of, 261
,, Church, Danvers tombs in, 249, 292
Dauntsey Family, pedigree of, 228-232
,, Joan, and husband, John Dewale, their tomb, 249

Dauntseys of West Lavington, 233, 295
Dauntsey, Milo de 'Vetus Ceppus,' 227
,, History of family, 227, 233
,, Elizabeth, marries Sir John Danvers, of Chelsea, 295
Davenant, Robert, 263
Dayncourt, Sir John, 211, 214
Dedington, 96, 117, 389
Deen, Richard de la, 261
Delabar family, 114
Denchworth, 161
Dene, John, 117
Denston, John, and Catherine, 153
Denton family, members of, 126, 130, 133, 134, 143
Denys, Sir Walter, Agnes, and Morris, 113, 115, 122
Dereham, Sir Richard, Frances, Anna, and Eleanor, 299
Devizes, Charles Danvers, Recorder of, 537
Dewale, John, and Joan, 233, 262
Digby, Reginald, and Anne, 169, 187
,, Kenelm, and Reginald, 226
Dillon (Duland), Anthony, and Temperance, 360, 365
Dimmock, —, and Elizabeth Danvers, 520
Docwray, Martin, and Isabel, 181, 184
,, family of, 189
Dodmer, Sir R., 391
Domesday Book, 'Recherches sur le,' 28
,, ,, Danvers in, 27, 30, 36
Don, or Done, John, Ralph, Cicely, 189, 516
Donat, Castle of, 243
,, Stradlings of, 233-237, 244, 246
Donnington Castle, 510
Doorten, Bucks, 114
Dorney, Church and village of, 490
,, Manor of, 36
,, Danvers of, 36, 490, 494
Dorsett in Warwick, 122
Downe, Earl of, 391, 393
Doyley family, of Greenlands and Eweden, 517
Doyley, Robert, charter of, to Peter Talemasche, 22
Doyley, Henry, fief in Estcote, 57
,, Arms of, in Colthorp Manor house, 88
Doyley, of Adderbury, 518
,, Nicholas de, 24
Draper, Samuel, marries Penelope Danvers, 432
Drayten, Sir John and Elizabeth, 145
,, Richard, 102
Druis, Robert de, 58
Druval, Thomas de, 493
Dryden, John and Elizabeth, 175, 346
,, Sir Henry, 175, 336
Dugdale, Sir William, notes of Danvers family, 37, 40
Duket, Humphrey, 78
Dunstanville, Muriel de, and family, 499
Dunstaple, Shrine of St. Frethmund at, 257
Dunthorne, Stephen, 80
Dye, Constance, 151
Dyke, Sir Thomas, and Philadelphia, 299
Dykes, Ann, 115

E.

Easington Manor, tithes of, 96, 531, 532
Easter Sepulchre, the, 369
Ebral, Richard, William, and Mary, 361
Edgcote, Queen Elizabeth's visit to, 334, 378
Edington, 162
Edith, wife of Robert Doyley, 7
Edmonds, Andrew, Christopher, Francis, 19, 518
Edolphe, Simon, and Maria, 523, 526
Ellames, John P., lord of Little Marlow, 487
Ellis, or Elye-Fitz, family of, and pedigree, 203-207
Ellis, William, notices of Ellises, 202
,, Thomas Flower, marries Frances Danvers, 462
Elwell, W. E., 263
Elyott, Richard, 265, 267
Englefield, Sir Thomas, and Margaret, 140
,, members of the family of, 122, 124, 162, 209, 213, 265, 267, 499
Englefield, pedigree of family of, 171
English, Mary, 262
Eppewell, village of, 65
Erasmus, comments on English houses, 398
Essex, Earl, conspiracy of, 287
Estby, John, 110, 111
Estcote, Quatermayne of, 209
Eustace of Boulogne, 309
Evesham, Richard de, 340
Eweden, Doyley of, 517
Eyneford, William de, 57
Eynsham Abbey, and register of, 51, 58, 65
,, Danvers charters to, 77
Eyre, William, and Ann Danvers, 545

F.

Fairbrother, Isaac, 457
Fairest, John, 262
Faith, St., City church of, 405
Falkland, Viscounts Henry and Lucius, 355
Fallesley, John, and Elizabeth de, 149
Fanflore (Fawler), 52
Feet of fines, 55
Fendus, or Feudus, John, in Estcote, 57
Fenne, Nicholas, 363
Fennell, family of, 468
,, Henrietta, marries John Danvers, 462, 463
Fermor marries Roland Danvers, 525
Ferrers family, the, 281
Fetiplace (Barentyne), Katherine, marries Robert Danvers, 114
Fetiplace, John, and Dorothy, 279
,, ,, and Bridget, 280
,, Peter, John, and Margaret, 214, 215
Fetiplace, William, and Katherine, 115
Fiennes (Fenys) family, descent of, 308
,, pedigree of, 306
,, Edward, marries Margaret Danvers, 274, 281, 313, 324
Fiennes, Elizabeth, marries William Danvers, 306
Fiennes, William, marries Margaret Wykeham, 312
Fiennes, Nathaniel, at Winchester, 427
,, James, first Lord Saye, murder of, 311
Fifhide, manor of, 231
,, William de, 62
Fisher, Margaret, 143
Fitzcount, Brian, of Wallingford, 36
Fitz-Ellis family, 166, 203-207
Fitzhamon, Robert, 243
Foliot, of Waterstoke, family of, 218-221
,, Richard and Ralph, 22, 24
,, Bartholomew, 57
Foljambe, Geoffrey, and Katherine, 281
Foot, Samuel, marries Elizabeth Danvers, 448
Forster, Humphrey, and Sybil, 214
Fowler, family of, 170, 215
,, Richard, Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster, 209
Fowler, Richard, and Joan, 237
,, William, and Cecily, 155
Franceys, Margaret, 152
Fray, Sir John, 112, 119, 143, 144
,, Lady Agnes (Danvers), 113, 144, 151, 153

Freebody family, 345
Fremund, St., Frethmund, or Fredismund, legend of, 124, 137, 251, 255
Fretewelle, Thomas, 80
Freville, Roger, and Sybil de, 211
Friars, Preaching, the, 60
Fritwell, village of, 475
Frolesworth, Danvers of, 31, 42
Frowyke family, 112, 116, 122, 265, 267
Frye, Agnes, 317
Frylleford, 161
Fryngeford, 128
Fulewell, Alan, 79
Fulmer, John, 168, 173
Fulwyk, Wilts, farm of, 276, 308, 358
Fynche, Henry, and Ann, of Culworth, 363

G.

Gait, Sir Robert, founds Thame Abbey, 5, 11, 18
Gardner, John, 262
,, ,, marries Martha Danvers, 434
,, Simon, and Thomas, 342
Gargrave, Lady, 255, 286, 295
Gate, Sir Geoffrey and Agnes, 143, 144, 150, 154
Geneva, subscriptions from Culworth, 382
Gernen, family of, 24, 76, 247, 301
Gernen-Lavington, 213
Giffard, family of, 126, 129, 230, 231
Glamorgan, conquest of, 244
Gloucester, Humphrey, Duke of, 99, 103
Goddard, Elizabeth, 403
,, Richard, marries Ann Danvers, 401
Godfrey, John, and Matilda, 204
Golafré, John, and Hugh, 199, 258, 512
Goodrich, James Pitt, and H. St. A., 407
Goodwyn, John, 400
Gosnold, Rev. John, 437
Gostelow, Walter, of Prestcote, 137, 256
Granville, Thomas de, and wife, Joan, in Bourton, 57, 58
Graves family, mention of, 525
Gray, John de, Bishop of Norwich, 49
,, Robert de, 90
Graythorpe, Robert, 261
Green, Sarah and Penelope, 454, 456
Greenfield, Richard, 169
Greenhill, Ralph, 341
Greenlands, Doyley of, 517
Greenvile, Alice, 174
Greenwood, William, 341
Grenville, Eustace and Elizabeth, 215
Gresley family, 213
Greswold, John and Katherine, 472
Grey Friars, church of, London, 511
Greys of Rotherfield, 173, 210, 211, 214, 312
Grimbald, Michael de, 24
,, family of, 141
Grostête, Bishop, 60, 63
Gryffin, Edward, 307
Grymsby, 122
Gryttenham, Ayliffes of, 544
Guilford, Earl of, 391
Gunwardby, Nicholas de, 330

H.

Hadenham, John, 219
Haltheyn family, members of, 64, 70, 110, 111, 122, 219
Hambleden, Viscountess, 464
Hambledon Church, Doyleys buried in, 518, 519
Hamilton, William, M.D., marries Elizabeth Danvers, 462
Hampden, William, 206
,, ,, and Margaret, 186
,, John and Elizabeth, 418
Hankford, William, 262
Harcourt family, 30, 31, 312, 357
Hardy, Elizabeth, marries John Danvers, 460
Harpeden, Roger de, 76
Harris, Warden of Winchester, 427
,, Rev. Dr. Robert, of Hanwell, 416, 418
Harrison, Sir Edmund, 458
Harvey, John, 312
Hawedene, Richard, 70
Hawey, of Combe Hawey, 245, 246
Haye, Matthew, 114
Haywood, Peter, 78
Henley-on-Thames, 178, 214
Henton, manor of, 97, 161, 223
Henyngham, Sir John, 124
Herbert, Rev. George, and Jane Danvers, 535, 536
Herbert, Lines on portrait of Sir John Danvers, 284
Herbert, Epitaph on Lord Danby, 293
,, at Dauntsey, 252
,, Richard, 293
,, Magdalen, marries Sir John Danvers, of Chelsea, 293
Herdwyk, 64, 122
Heren family, 149, 150, 158
Herle, or Horle, 114
Hewes, Grace, marries Sir John Danvers, 295
Heyford, Lower, 101
Heytesbury, John, and Mary, 279
Hida, Gilbert de, 76
Hide, of Stokelyne, 130
Hill, Rev. Charles, Rector of Culworth, 341
Hind, Thomas, 341
Hitchcock, Robert, 131
Hiwis, or Hwyshe, Sir Richard, and Alice, 236
Hoby, Sir Edward, and Elizabeth, 285
Hochekynes, William, 194
Hodges, Rev. Moses, and Martha, 479
Holborn, Mrs. Elizabeth Danvers, of, 439, *et seq.*
Holt, of Leicester, 281
Homage, form of, 50
Hood, John, of Bardon Park, 455
Hopton, Ann, and Owen, 392, 394
Horley manor bought by Daniel Danvers, 402
Horley manor sold by Anthony Danvers, 432
,, village, church, and manor house, Chap. XIII.
Horley, parish registers of, 410, 438
,, Lay Subsidy Rolls, 414
Hornsey, John Danvers of, 461
Horsendun, Ralph and John of, 19
House, English, of sixteenth century, 344, 398
House of twelfth century, 16
,, of fourteenth century, 72
Howard, Thomas, Earl of Surrey, 147, 154
Howell, William, and Prudence Danvers, 361, 365, 380
Hubbard, Nicholas, and Dorothy Danvers, 169, 187, 226
Huggenden, Reginald de, 493
Hulle, John de, 261
Hungerford, family of, 279, 280
,, John and Ann, 283
,, Sir Anthony, and Dorothy Danvers, 279
Hungerford, Sir Walter, and Susan, 280
,, Sir Walter, 358
Hussey, Lord, 162, 163
Hustings Roll of City of London, 91
Hutchins, Richard, and Elizabeth Pope, 389
,, John, 341
,, Mary (Lady Danvers), 481
Hyde, John, Margaret, and William, 127, 129, 204

Iden, Alexander, 311
Illingworth, Jane (Langston), 126
Injunctions, the, 377
Interdict, the, in England, 48
Ipswell, village of, 65, 72
  ,, manor house of, 73
  ,, Danvers of, 65-112
Isabel, Countess of Gloucester, 486
Iver, Bucks, 162, 168, 169, 177

J.

Jackman, William, duel with Pope Danvers, 477
Jakys, Thomas, 265, 267
Jely, Jane (Langston), 126
Jesson, Thomas and Rebecca, 361
Jestyne, of Glamorgan, 244, 245
Jewel, Bishop, his 'Apology,' 377, 383
Jones, *alias* Valence, marries sister of Sylvester Danvers, 534
Jones, John, 239, 262
Jonson, Thomas, 128
Jugge, William de, fiefs in Milton, 57

K.

Kachelawe, John, 80
Katermars, family of, 208
Katermayn, Thomas, marries Joan Russell. See Quatermayne
Kemsey, Jane, 481
Kenesworth, Henry de, and Sarah Danvers, 52, 53, 79
Kenning, Robert and Christian, 337
Keton, John de, 321, 322, 349
Keys, Robert, 107
King Street, Westminster, 121
King, Mathias and Mary, 458
Kirby, T. F., Winchester College, 149, 317, 318, 430
Kirkeby, Will de, fief in Stoke, 57
Kirton, Thomas and Mary, 394
  ,, family, 345
  ,, Master, 381
Knightley, of Fawsley, family of, 345
  ,, Richard and Elizabeth, 418
  ,, Rev. Thomas and Jane, 407
Kniveton manor, 13
Kydwelly, Morgan, 177

L.

La Lee, family of, 64, 65, 71, 81
Lambe, of Coulston, 533
Langelee family, of Whychwood, 196-200
  ,, arms of, in Shipton Church, 199, 250
Langford, Alice, marries John Stradling, 235
  ,, ,, marries Sir Richard Pole, 237
Langford, family of, 232, 302
Langley, Bucks, 162, 178, 179
Langstoke, Herts, 168
Langston family, of Caversfield, 125, 134
  ,, monumental brasses of, 132
  ,, John, marries Amicia Danvers, 125
Langston, Elizabeth, marries Richard Danvers, 119
Langston, Pedigree of, 126
Langton, Ann, 184
  ,, Thomas, 341
Laughton, Richard and Agnes, 168
Lavington West, Dauntseys of, 233, 296, 297
Lawley, Thomas and Agnes, 145
Léchaudé D'Anisy, researches on Domesday Book, 28
Lechton, Henry, 78
Lee, Rev. Dr., history of church of St. Mary, Thame, 4, 209
Lee, account of Quatermayne family, 209
  ,, ,, of Fowler family, 170
  ,, William, 112
  ,, Sir Henry, of Ditchley, 296
  ,, Eleanor, marries Earl of Abingdon, 297
  ,, Elizabeth, marries Robert Wright, or Villiers, 297
Leeds, Duke of, 285
Leicester, Sir Robert and Meriel, 480
Leigh, George and Catherine, of Liverpool, 454
Leighte, Richard and Elizabeth, of Horley, 402
Lekhampsted, 503, 511, 512
Leland, note on Danvers family, 234
  ,, on Quatermayne family, 208
Lestecote, Sir William, 235
Leuck, Richard, fief in Thame, 100-157
Leybourne, Thomas de, 316
  ,, Roger de, 57
Leye, Walter, 262
Leynham, John, 113
'Liber Niger,' the, 39
'Liber Rubeus,' the, 42
Lincoln, Bishop, fiefs of, 22, 56, *et seq.*
  ,, ,, Institutions, Danvers in, 491
  ,, Cathedral, muniments of, 13
Lindsey, Countess of, 479
Linzie, Captain Robert and Ann, 468
Litelcote, Bucks, 500
Littelton, family of, 174, 210
Liverpool, Danvers family of, 449-458
  ,, of seventeenth century, 449, *et seq.*
  ,, sugar refinery established there, 449
Long family, history of, 239
  ,, Henry, fatal quarrel with Danvers family, 287-291, 302-304
Long, John and Sybil, of Wicham, 317
  ,, Melford Church, Agnes Say's portrait in, 151
Lords, the House of, proceedings regarding Anthony Danvers, 422
Lostwithyell, 278
Lottery in Culworth parish, 377
Louche, Richard de, two fiefs in Milton, 57
Love, Edward, 389
Loveden, Thomas, 301
Lovel arms in Rycote Church, 213
  ,, John, Margaret, and Maude, 505
Lovett, Thomas and Ann, 269, 281, 282, 339
Luton Church, 145
Lyford, Eleanor, 188
Lygon, William and Elizabeth, 262
Lyneham, parish of, 538
Lynham, Sir John and Margaret, 144, 150, 153, 160
Lynne, Elizabeth, 141
Lyons, John and Robert, of Wavercourt, 58
Lyte, Isaac and Deborah, 541

M.

Machyn, John, 110, 232
Macnamara, family of, 470
Magdalen, St. Mary, College of, Oxford, 202-206, 157, 512
Malett, William, 265, 268
Malmesbury Abbey, 226, 227
Malpas, David and Agnes, 147
Mandeville of Rycote, 217
  ,, pedigree and family of, 314
Manley, Lawrence and Anne, 472
Manor houses, 16, 72, 88, 211, 217, 335, 409, 487
Mapledurham, Robert de, 76
Marden, or Merden, manor of, 231, 237, 238
Marescall, Robert, 58

Marescall, Richard and Walter, 220
Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, 241
Marlow, Little, Danvers of, 37, 492
,, ,, manor, village, and church, 484-487
Marlow, Little, priory of, 488
Marriage of John Danvers and Anne Stradling, 264
Marrow, Thomas, 265, 268
Marsham, William, 143
,, Sir John and Sir Robert, 476, 477
Marsh Baldon Church and manor house, 399
,, ,, Daniel and John Danvers at, 399
Mary, Queen, changes in Culworth Church during reign of, 375, 388
Mauntell, Sir Walter, 101, 166, 226
Maureward, Geoffrey and Ada, 208
Maviel family, 321, 322
Maydewell, Lawrence and Mary, 405
Maypoles and morris-dancers abolished, 387, 522
Meade, Thomas and Anne, 354
Mendysdene, manor of, 232
Mickleten, Gloucester, Swann monuments in church of, 525
Middleton, Robert de, 62
Miles, family of, Brokehampton, 89
Milton, hamlet of, 97
Missenden, of Culworth, family of, 90, 330
Mitchell, Edward, marries Joan Danvers, 537
Monceaux, Sir John and Maude de, 310
Monks, Corsham, 544, 548
Montacute, Lord, 241
Montgomery, John and Ann, 153
Moore's Rental, Liverpool, 449
Mordaunt family, 261
,, Sir John, 282
More, Sir Thomas, 294, 390
Moreton Pinkney, manor of, 362, 396, 401
Morewood, Elizabeth, 297
Morin d'Auvers, family of, 32
Morin's 'Chronicle of Dunstaple,' 257
Mortimer, Roger de, 503-505
Morton, George Danvers of, 520
,, William de, 64
Moulton Park, 370
Mountford, Osboru, 158
Moyle, Thomas, 128, 130, 131
Muller, Richard and Bridget, of Liverpool, 454
Mussenden, or Missenden, Hugh and Agnes, 332

N.

Nancylis, Alice, 126, 129
Napp, the, Tetsworth, 2
Neave, Sophia, 461
Neel, Viscount de Auvers, 30
Neremit, or Nernuit, Neyrunt, 494, 496
Nevell, Thomas, Margaret, and William, 276, 278, 281, 307
Nevill, Lady Elizabeth, 285, 286, 302
Newark Castle, 12
New College, Oxford, 101, 103, 105, 422
Newcombe, Robert, 371
Newman, John and William, 162
Newport, John, 127
,, Robert and Magdalen, 293
Nicolls, Sir Edward and Susan, of Faxton, 480
Norman fiefs lost to English families, 53
North, Lord, 96, 391
Northnewenton, manor of, 312, 321
Norton, manor of, 231
Nuneham Courtney, church of, 401
,, ,, Pollard family of, 400

O.

Oakle, Fitzellis of, 203, 207, 225
Odington, manor of, 11
Oldham, Isaac, 457
Oldstock, Milo, 227
Orpwood, John, 391
Osbaldeston, John and Jane, 354
Osborn, Sir John and Elinor, 286, 537
,, Sir John, 299
,, Sir Edward and Ann, 285
,, Sir Danvers, 299
,, Sir Peter and Dorothy, 286
,, Elizabeth and William Danvers, 548
,, Sir Thomas, Earl of Danby, 285
Oseney Abbey, register of, 493
Oterbourne, manor of, 162
Overton, Richard, 80
Oxenford, William, 112
Oxenwode and Forstbury, 503, 512
Oxford Castle, Thomas Danvers, custodian of, 501

P.

Packwood, 361
Padwell, Richard, 113
Palmer, Susan, 414
,, of Dorney, 490
Paris, William de, 76
Paternoster Row, 264, 404
Paulit, Sir Hugh and Elizabeth, 391
Pecche, Rohesia de, 42
Peckham, Sir Edward and Robert, 353
Pelle, Thomas, 358
Pemberton, Robert, 341
Penkridge, 232
Penruddock, John, 536
Pereson, William, 370
Periam, Lady, 319
Perkyns, Nicholas, 261
Perot family, 317, 321
Perrers, Alice, 330, 331
Pertenall manor, 236
Peterborough, Earl of, 261, 263
Peverel, William de, 28
Peyten, Thomas and Margaret, 153
Pick, Richard and Decima, 548
Piddington, Richard, 400
Pigott family, 127, 130, 131, 362
Pincherden, Sir John and Isabel, 173
Pinkeny family, 329
Pipard, Gilbert, 18
Plomer, Sir John, 109, 341
Poer, Hugh, 52, 77
Pole, Sir Geoffrey, and Edith Bona, 192, 207, 240
Pole, Richard, and Alice Langford, 191, 192, 230, 237, 238
Pole, Richard, and Countess of Salisbury, 240-242, 300
Pole, Cardinal, 241
Pollard family of Marsh Baldon, 401, 402
,, Lewis, 265, 267, 401
,, John, and Susan Danvers, 399
Poore, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Margery, 130, 192, 193
Pope family of Wroxton, 389
,, ,, pedigree of, 391
,, Susan, marries Daniel Danvers, 389
,, Sir Thomas, and Sir Thomas More, 390
,, Sir William, of Cogges, 473
Porter, Sir Arthur and Ann, 285
Poulteney, Brigadier Thomas, 479
Poure, Roger le, and Maude, 7, 11
Powell, Edward and John, 304, 305
,, Rebecca, 526
Power family, the, 192
Prestcote bought by John Danvers, 96
,, house, 135, 136, 256
,, Richard de, 50

Preston, Richard and Elizabeth, 139
Price, John and Dorothy, 547
Protections from King and Parliament, 419
Pulteney, Gabriel and Dorothy, 471
Puritanism in Banbury, 521
Pury family, 175, 183, 185, 517
Pykworth, 112, 122
Pynnock, Thomas, 139

Q.

Quatermars family, 208
Quatermayn, Thomas and Joan, 204
,, early members of family, 22, 24, 57, 59, 122, 155, 160, 161
Quatermayne family, 207-217
,, ,, arms and seal of, 208, 209
Quatermayne family, tombs in Thame Church, 212

R.

Raleigh, Sir Edward and Mary, 192
,, family, 172, 173, 189
Ramsey family, 181, 190
Ratley and Upton, Danvers of, 177, 179, 516
Rawleigh, Bridgett, 346
Raynesford family of Great Tew, 354-358
,, John and Jane, 480
Raynsford, John and Alice, 181, 182
,, Robert, and family, 391, 392, 394
,, Dorothy, marries John Danvers, 354
Raynsford, Richard, marries Mary Kirton, 354
Raynsford, Richard, marries Georgia Pope, 354
Raynsford, Lawrence, marries Elizabeth Fiennes, 311, 354
Reading, Richard Danvers of, 519, 529
Recorder of London, Robert Danvers, 103
Rede, Thomas and Margaret, 129
,, William and Elizabeth, 282
Redstone, Ann and Elizabeth, 468
Registers of Horley Church, 411, 439, *et seq.*
Restall, Margaret, 184
Retainers, general, in fifteenth century, 102
Rich, Sir Robert and Daniel, 480
,, the Misses, acquire the Culworth manors, 480, 481
Richmond, Alan, Count of, his charter to Robert Danvers, 13
Ricot, Fulcote de, 208
Rival, Peter, 263
Robynson, John, 262
Roches, Mary de, 506
Roger, Margaret, 130
Roke, Robert, 514
Rokele, Rose de, 207
Rokle, Margaret and John, 322
Roks, Alice, 171
Roll of the Hundreds, 64
Rookwood, Thomas, 153, 210, 211
Rotherfield Grey, 178
Rougham, Davers of, 527
Roumeli, Richard de, and family of, 18, 62, 80
Rous, Richard and John, 214, 215
Rowell, Mary, 531, 532
Rudier, Edward, 341
Rufford, manor of, 162
Rushworth, John and Jane, 407
,, Dan, 341
Russell of Bradenstoke, 203-206
,, Sir Maurice, 233, 249
,, William, 77
,, Mary, 523, 524
Russhell, John, 143
Rycote Church and manor house, 210, 216
,, Joan, 171
Rye, John, 418
Ryngbourn, William and Edith, 321
Ryngwood, John, 262
Ryslye, Thomas and Margaret, 472

S.

Sabrysworth, manor of, 147
Saccheverel, Henry, Dorothy, and Susan, 305, 346
Saccheverel, Erasmus, 346
Sacchevile, Thomas and Felicia de, 42
Sadler, Anthony and Ann, 399, 401
Saint Martin's-le-Grand, church of, 264
,, Sauveur le Vicomte, abbey of, 30
St. Barbe, Sir John, 234
St. John, Sir Oliver and Edith, 241
Salmon, Henry, 341
Salweyn, John, 226
Sandford Preceptory, register of, 493
Sapcotes, Thomas, 265, 268
Saunders, Thomas, 127, 130
Savage, Henry, 80
Say, de, family and descent of, 314-316
,, Sir John, 109
,, ,, and family, 146-150
,, Dame Agnes, 146-154
,, ,, Elizabeth, 147, 149, 154
,, Sir William, and wife, Elizabeth Fray, 148, 154
Say, Dean William, 146, 148
Saye, Lord James, murder of, 108, 310
,, ,, and Anthony Danvers, 419
Scay, Matthew, 230
Schools at Banbury and Thame, 387
Scilly, Isles of, 234, 236
Scotte, John, 92
Scudamore, Peter, 231
Scures, John de, 507
Scut, Richard, 261
Segrave, John de, in Bourton, 57
Segree, chartulary of, 203
Serjeantson, Sir Henry, 124
Sheldon, Ralph and Philippa, 402
Sheppard, Richard and Amy, 547
Sheriff, office of, 501
Sherston Pinkney, John Danvers of, 543
Shiplake, 499
Shipton Church, tombs in, 199
Shirley, John and Jane, 281
Shuckborough, John of, 40
Shute, Rev. Mr., 405
Sibford, Robert de, 62, 80
Sidenham, Robert de, 77
Sidgwick, Robert and Mary Jane, 549
Sion, Brethren of, 183
Skevington, family of, 532
Smalbone, William, 277
Smith, Alexander, of Pillerton, Warwick, 437
,, John and Allyn, of Battersea, 438, 448
,, the Hon. F. W. D., of Greenlands, 464, 518
Smith, William, D.C.L., of Great Horwood, 346
Smythcote manor and chapel, 232, 261
Soleburie, Roger Danvers in, 37
Sorocold, Margaret, and family, 451
Sottesbury family, 345
Southampton, Earl of, 287, 289
,, port of, 118
Southwark, Danvers family in, 112, 119
Southwick, convent of, 507
Spence, John and Sawyer, 341
Spencer, Thomas, 358
Spicer, Thomas, 509
Spigurnel, Petronilla, 65
Sporum, Jordan and Clement, 230
Spurling, John, 391
Stafford, Dorothy, marries John Danvers of Corsham, 546; her family and descent, 546, 547

Stafford, Humphrey and Katherine, 150
,, William, 341
,, Sir Lawrence, 514
Stalebrook, William de, 76
Stanbridge and Puttelworth, 503, 505
Stanes, Ralph, Gilbert, and Alice de, 513
Stanlake, 160, 214, 312, 321
Stannier, 299
Stavebridge, John, 341
Stavely family, 276, 277, 282, 391
Staverton, 122
Stedlawe, 161
Steere, Nicholas, 262
Stoke, Geoffrey de and Alice, 67
,, Lawrence de, 24
,, Richard de, 317
,, Thomas de, 143
Stoke Blys, 114
Stokey, Sir Humphrey, 354
Stonor, John de, 487
,, Walter de, 357
Stowe, Joceline de, 57
,, Northampton, Lady Carey's monument, 286
Stradling, Ann, of Dauntsey, her birth and marriage, 263, 264
Stradling, arms and seal of, 248
,, Edward, story of his abduction, 171, 237
Stradling, Edward, probable time of his death, 264
Stradling, Edward, story of his murder, 238, 239
Stradling, family history of, 233-248
,, pedigree of, 229, 235
Stradling, Sir Edward and Katherine (Dennys), 115
Stratfield, Mortimer, 500, 503
Stratton, 236, 278
,, William and Amice, 317
Strelly, John, 282
Strongbow, Gilbert, 247
Stutesbury, John, 194
Subsidy Lay Rolls of Culworth, 342
Sulgrave, 111, 307, 363
Sulthorne, 128
Sutton family, 345
Swainswick Church, Danvers monument of, 548
Swalecliffe, Wykeham of, 316
Swancottes, 279
Swanland, Sir John and Isabel, 508
Swann, Richard and Dorothy, 524, 525
Swithlands, last Sir John of, 458
Sybford, Thomas of, 70
Sydenham, Robert de, 52
Sysley, Sir John, 185

T.

Taillard, Gilbert and Richard, 17-77
,, Nicholas, 64
Talbot, Hugh, 315
,, Sir Richard and Wenllian, 246
Talem, Richard, 26
Talemasche, Richard and Avicia, 22
,, fief in Swalecliffe, 58
Talemashe family, of Stoke Talmage, 17, 24, 61, 62, 75
Talemashe, pedigree of, 17
Tame, Edward, 265, 268
Tanfield, Lawrence, 365
Tanner, John and Ann, of Swainswick, 548
Temple, Sir William and Christian, 472
,, ,, ,, ,, Dorothy, 286, 299
Tenants of Bishops of Lincoln, 58-60
Tetsworth, charters of, 23
,, Danvers of, 17
,, manor house of, 16
,, ratepayers of, A.D. 1327, 71
Tetsworth, village church of, Chap. I.
Tewe, Great, village and church of, 354, 355
Tewkysbury, Christiana, 143
Tewsh, Mary, marries Charles Danvers, 462
Thame Abbey, 5-7
,, charters of Quatermayn, 23
,, Church, Quatermayn tombs in, 210, 213
Thatcham, Danvers monument in, 178, 182
Thorpe Mandeville, 122
Tickenkote, 141
Tilly, Rev. Dr., of Rycote, and his wife Margaret, 216, 548
Tilney, Frederick, 147, 154
Tockenham, Danvers of, 538
Toresey, 161
Torold, son of Geoffrey, 43, 497
Townsend, Margaret, 391, 392
Townshend, Hon. Robert Marsham, 478
Tracey, Henry and Alice, 124, 144, 150, 151
Trapp, Jos., 263
Trelawney, John, 341
Tremayl, Thomas, 301
Tresilian, Sir Robert and Emmeline, 236
Trinity College, Oxon, foundation of, 392
Trist, William and Lettice, 337
Trowe, manor of, 236
Trymonel, 70, 135
Tubney, manor of, 160, 161
Turberville, Sir Paine, 244, 246
Tusmere, manor of, 96, 125
Tynghurst, 122
Tyngrie, Faramus and Sybil, 309
Tyringham, Elizabeth, 521

U.

Ufford, Sir Ralph and Matilda, 511
Ulgers, William, 55, 64
Umpton, Sybil, 115
Upton, Danvers of, 517
,, Warwick, 177, 179
Uvedale, Sir John and Alice, 322, 323

V.

Vagabondage and vagrants, 376, 380
Valance, Robert de, 24
Valoigne, Jordan de, 489, 493
Valoyns, Thomas de, 76
Vanse, John, 275
Vaughan, Dorothy, niece of George Herbert, her Danvers legacies, 536
Velle, Edmund le, 494
Verney, Alice, marries John Danvers, 194
,, Edmund, Richard, and Ann, of Compton, 189
Verney, Sir Ralph and Emma, 173
,, ,, ,, of Claydon, 164, 190, 191
,, ,, Robert and Dorothy, 521
Verneys of Byfield, 194-202, 345
,, ,, ,, pedigree of, 197
,, ,, Compton Murdack, 189, 201, 521
Vetus Ceppus, Milo, 227
Vincent, Augustin, Danvers pedigree by, 37
Vintner, 407
Vipont, Robert de, 57

W.

Wages at Culworth in sixteenth century, 379
Wake, Richard and Margaret, 523
Walchelin, Robert de, 316
Walcot, Peter de, 78
,, Robert de, 62
Waldegrave, Lady Elizabeth, 144, 150, 151, 153
Walker, Richard and John, 169, 262
Wallingford, Wigod of, 35
Walmesley, Sir Thomas and Eleanor, 285
,, Nicholas, 261
Walsingham, Emmeline de, 312

Wandard, Robert, 79
Ward, family of, 548
Wardington, 96
Warkworth, Chetwodes of, 211
Warner, Jacob, 469
,, Sir Joseph, 469
,, or Warrener, Sir Thomas and Joan, 321, 322
Washington, family of, 345, 400, 524, 525
Waterperry, Fitz-Ellis of, 203
,, church of, 202, 207
Waterstock, Foliots and Bruleys of, 97, 218
,, church of, 156, 166
,, rectors and patrons of, 226
Watford, Henry of, 341
Watkins, Charles and Alice, 407
Watson, Joel and Mary, 458
Watts, Richard and Mary, 343, 344, 413
Wawne, Isabel, 185
Waynflete, Bishop, 120, 149, 157, 160, 163
Webb, Joseph, 341
Welbeck family, 529, 536
Welbore, Thomas and Ursula, 283
Welborne, Robert, 263
Weldon, Little, manor of, 503-507
Welham, Margaret, 89
Wellesford, manor of, 232, 233
Wellysborne, Oliver and John, 129, 130, 172
Welpeley Chapel, patrons of, 261
Welsford, Eliza and Emily, 549
Wenlock, Sir John, Elizabeth, and Agnes, 143-145
Werffth, Richard, 121
West, Francis, 263
Westcote family, 129, 172, 174
Weston, tenants in, 59
Weston, North, manor of, 207-217
Westminster, chapter-house of, 98
Wharton, Thomas, 263
Whetenhall, Archdeacon, and Ann, 547
Whichwood Forest, and de Langelees of, 196, 198
White, — and Ann, 523
Whithers, John, 169
Whitt, Philip, 179
Whittington family, pedigree of, 235
Wicham, Robert and Ralph de, 58, 64
,, Thomas, Robert, and Isabel, 518
Widmer, manor of, 484
Widows, vows of, 514
Wikinton, John, son of Guy, 80
Williamscote, Henry, Richard, and Thomas de, 57, 62
Willoughby, Sir Christopher, 399
Willson, William, 341
Winchester College, 422, 427-429
Windham, Edward and Jane, 391
Windsor, Sir William, 171, 330
Winterbourne, Dauntsey, 232, 282
,, Danvers of, 503, 511-513
Witefeld, Henry and Robert de, 19, 493
Withsend, Richard, 80
Wogfeld, or Wokefield, 43, 497, 503
Wollescott, Joan, 141
Wollston, Warwick, 211
Wolsey, Thomas, Cardinal, 157, 165
Wood, the Rev. W., D.D., 138, 259
Woodford, Frances, 520
Woodruffe, Elias, 263
Worminghall, Davers of, 527
Worth, G., 278
Wouberne, Robert, 225
Wraby, John, 107
Wright, Walter, 226
,, Sir Robert, 173
,, Robert, *alias* Villiers, 297
Wriothesley, or Wrythe, 526, 527
Wroxton Church and village, 393, 394
Wyke, or Staneswyke, 509
Wykeborough, 279
Wykeham family, of Swalecliffe, 316, 318
,, William, Bishop of Winchester, 316, 320, 322, 507
Wykeham, Sir Thomas and Elizabeth, 97, 318, 321, 327, 348
Wykeham, Robert de, 65, 67
,, Humphrey, claims to be Founder's kin at Winchester, 318
Wykeham, Agnes, descent of, 366
Wykes, John and Ann, 278, 282
Wylcotts, John and Elizabeth, 354
,, Sir John and Alice, 355
Wylkins, Sir Henry, 262, 275
Wynell, or Wyvell, William, 145
Wynmale, 161
Wynne, Richard and Mary, 407
Wyvelscote, 321

Y.

Yate, Peter, 524, 526
,, Edmund, 389
Yeate, Archdeacon Cornelius, 547
Yevan, Robert, 173
York, Duke of, Baron of Dauntsey, 260
,, William de, 58
,, Margaret, 402
Yorke, John, 341
,, William and Charles, of Bassett Down, 537

Z.

Zouche, Richard and Elizabeth, 472

BILLING AND SONS, PRINTERS, GUILDFORD.

CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

P. 13, l. 2 from bottom, *for* 'concississe' *read* 'concessisse.'

P. 72, note, *for* 'weak *am*' *read* 'weak *an*.'

P. 76, l. 10 from bottom, and p. 77, l. 18 from bottom, *read* 'Anuers' instead of 'Auuers.'

P. 89, l. 9, *read* 'absent' instead of 'present.'

P. 96, l. 1, *read* 'Guilford' instead of 'Guildford.'

P. 108, l. 1, insert full stop instead of comma, and in line 3, comma in place of full stop.

P. 167, l. 3, insert comma after Miles. This match of Bruley and Fitzellis explains the connection, mentioned at page 225, of William Bruley with the Fitzellis manors of Oakley and Waterperry.

P. 175, l. 4, 'second' instead of 'first.'

P. 187, l. 13, Adderbury.

P. 190, l. 15, *read* 'Henry VII.'

P. 193, l. 6, *read* 'another' *for* 'the other.'

P. 240, note, l. 15 from bottom, after vol. i. insert 'which takes the point of view of the opponents of the Danvers family.'

P. 278. Thomas Danvers was not knighted. In his post-mortem inquisitions he is called 'armiger' and 'gentleman.'

P. 283, l. 5 from bottom. Doubtful if the manor belonged to Sylvester.

P. 327, l. 6 from bottom, and p. 328, l. 16, insert 'Elizabeth' in place of 'Margaret.'

P. 336, l. 7, *read* 'chimneys.'

P. 403, l. 10 from bottom, 'Richard Herbert of Black Hall and Montgomery,' not, as in text, 'of Chelsea.'

P. 445, para. 6, after 'Sarah' add 'and Margaret,' and alter 'wife' to 'wives.'

P. 541, l. 8, omit semicolon, and in its place introduce ', and.'

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Acland, The Hon. Mrs. Alfred, 38, Pont Street, London, S.W.
Acland, The Hon. Mrs. William, Woodvale, Cowes.
Bell, Miss, 8, Vicarage Gardens, Kensington.
Bird, W. H. B., 7, Oseney Crescent, Camden Town.
Blomfield, Rev. J. C., M.A., Launton Rectory, Bicester.
Brinton, Hubert, M.A., Eton College, Windsor.
Brinton, Roland, M.D., 8, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W.
Brinton, Wilfred, M.A., 11, Queen's Gardens, W.
Cocks, Thomas Somers, Thames Bank, Great Marlow.
Codrington, The Hon. Mrs. William, 12, Courtfield Gardens, S.W.
Cokayne, G. E., M.A., F.S.A. (Clarencieux King of Arms), Exeter House, Roehampton, S.W.
Crisp, Fred. A., Grove Park, Denmark Hill, S.E.
Cust, Lady Elizabeth, 13, Eccleston Square.
Danvers, Miss, Hartwell, Guildford.
Danvers, Fred. C., India Office, Westminster.
Danvers, James F., Swithland, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
Danvers, Sir Juland, K.C.S.I., 103, Lexham Gardens, Kensington.
Danvers, Robert, 20, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington.
Davenport, Thomas, M.A., Headington Hill, Oxford.
Dingwall, Mrs. Charles, Blomfield, Caterham Valley, Surrey.
Dugdale, Mrs., Yewden Manor, Henley-on-Thames.
Dunn, John F., 23, Ludgate Hill, E.C.
Ellis, Miss, Waterden Cottage, Guildford.
Ellis, Edmund H., 29, Cranley Gardens, S.W.
Ellis, Gerald A., Hatton House, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire.
Fortescue, Charles, Woodland, Banbury.
Freshfield, William D., The Wilderness, Reigate.
Goodrich, H. St. A., 5, Herbert Crescent, S.W.
Gray, Henry, Genealogical and Topographical Bookseller, 47, Leicester Square, W.C.
Hambleden, Viscountess, 3, Grosvenor Place, S.W.
Hill, Rev. Charles, M.A., Culworth Rectory, Banbury.

Howard, Joseph Jackson, LL.D. (Maltravers Herald extraordinary), Mayfield, Orchard Road, Blackheath, Kent.
Jardine, Mrs., 30, Leinster Gardens, Hyde Park.
Jones, T. Carmalt, 6, Westbourne Street, Hyde Park.
Kirby, T. F., M.A., The College, Winchester.
Lee, Rev. Frederick George, D.D., All Saints' Vicarage, York Road, London, S.E.
Lee, G. Ambrose de Lisle (Bluemantle), College of Arms, E.C.
Library of the Corporation of the City of London, Guildhall, E.C.
Macnamara, N. C., F.R.C.S., 13, Grosvenor Street, W.
Macnamara, Rev. H. D., M.A., Rector of St. James's, Garlickhythe, E.C.
Magdalen College, Oxford, Librarian of.
Magrath, Rev. John R., D.D., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Provost of Queen's College.
Marsham-Townshend, Hon. R., 5, Chesterfield Street, Mayfair, London, W.
Medlicott, H. E., Potterne, Devizes.
Meyrick, Rev. F., M.A., Blickling Rectory, Aylsham, Norfolk.
Pearson, Mrs. George, Southside, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
Power, John Danvers, Great Marlow, Bucks.
Rawlinson, Alfred, Hurstmead, Eltham.
Ryder, The Hon. Mrs., Lyne Grove, Virginia Water.
Sidgwick, Mrs., 18, Cambalt Road, Putney Hill, S.W.
Sims, Mrs., Harrow Weald Park, Stanmore.
Sims, A. Billing, 61, Cornwall Gardens, Kensington.
Sladen, H. Mainwaring, Somersfield Cottage, Reigate.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D., M.P., 3, Grosvenor Place, W.
Thornton, Mrs. William, Wenbury, Grange Road, Eastbourne.
Thornton, Colonel E. Z., Court House, Winchfield, Hants.
Trinity College, Oxford, Librarian of.
Waghorn, Mrs. A. E., Dava, Redhill.
Ward, F. R., 36, Egerton Gardens, South Kensington.
Ward, W. W., 41, Broad Street, Bristol.
Warner, Sir Joseph, 62, Eaton Square, London.
Watney, John, F.S.A., Mercers' Hall, London.
Wigan, Rev. Herbert, M.A., All Saints' School, Bloxham, Banbury.
Woods, Sir Albert W., K.C.M.G., C.B., F.S.A. (Garter King of Arms), College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
Wyatt, Rev. C. Fras., M.A., Broughton Rectory, Banbury.